Cannock & Rugeley
CHRONICLE
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El Staffico sparks concern at plans for 119 new homes

PARKING FEARS AFTER BIG MATCH

BY CARL JACKSON

PARKING fears surrounding proposals to build more than 100 homes next to Hednesford Town's ground have grown after a bumper crowd turned out for the local derby with Stafford Rangers.

Nearly 900 fans were at Keys Park Road on Monday for the match dubbed El Staffico – triple the number who were at the previous home fixture, against Shaw Lane AFC, which drew a crowd of 302.

Councillor Paul Woodhead, who represents the area on Cannock Chase Council, was at the latest match and said there were around 300 cars parked on the car park and another 70 to 100 more in surrounding streets.

He has previously expressed fears that Taylor Wimpey's scheme for 119 homes next door would severely limit parking, intensifying the existing problems for residents and potentially turning some fans off attending games.

Restrict

Councillor Woodhead said: "There is a lot of concern from people who attend football games around the parking.

"If there is an incident with someone, will they be able to get out of the ground? The club's attendances are down this year on what they have been, but you only have to go back to 2013-14 when they played Crawley Town in the FA Cup and there was more than 2,000 there."

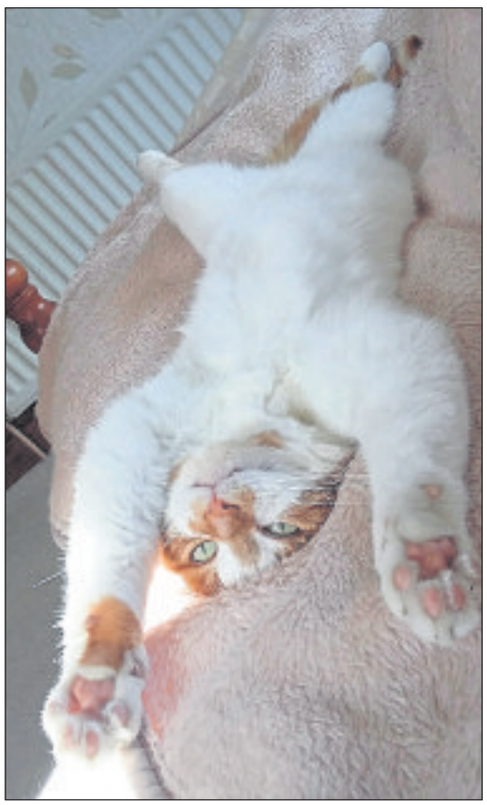
Taylor Wimpey has proposed restrictions which would restrict parking on the surrounding estate roads to one hour while residents would receive a free permit.

Councillor Woodhead added: "I have serious concerns regarding the parking solution offered by the developers which will not address the number of cars requiring to park to attend the stadium to watch the local football club. It will require significant resources to enforce and implement from the district and county councils as well as the police for many years to come."

The scheme was due to be determined by the council's planning committee yesterday (Wednesday) as the Chronicle went to press.

No-one at Hednesford Town FC was available for comment.

NOW IT'S BEDTIME FOR TEDDY OUR PRIZE PET



Time to chill out – Teddy relaxing on the bed at home

ONE week on and all this attention is just wearing out poor Teddy. For those readers who missed the announcement last week this much-loved moggy – now seen chilling on the bed – won our Animal Crackers competition with the picture of him in the garden dovecote.

According to owner Vicky Sterrett, from Bloxwich, he just loves to get himself into lots of tight sports but here he is looking a lot more laid back. Obviously loving all the attention, he was a very clear winner with our many readers who emailed or posted in their votes.

Shortlist

From the shortlist of 10, taken from the more than 500 entries we had sent in, he was a clear winner. Vicky, from Bloxwich, said Teddy found her four years ago, arriving on her doorstep as a stray. She found that he wasn't microchipped and was about four years old. Vicky fell in love instantly and decided to keep him. "We have always thought he was a superstar and winning this competition has proved that other people think so as well," said Vicky.

The winning picture

"After speaking to Teddy we have decided to donate the £100 prize money to Walsall & Wolverhampton Cats Protection for all the amazing work they do," Vicky added.

Our shortlist included dogs, cats, guinea pigs, a tortoise, rabbit and even a hedgehog but it was Teddy who captured so many hearts.

He has a cheeky personality and is a very busy boy spending most of his time in the garden, in the greenhouse and of course the dovecote.

This was specially made by a carpenter at a local day care centre for adults with learning disabilities.

OPENING

Jobs hope in car dealer's launch

A CAR sales company say they are 'spreading their wings' by moving onto the Cannock site of a previous dealer which closed down suddenly.

Motorland 2008 Ltd has opened where Chase Car Sales was based in Rugeley Road, Hednesford, with the hope of hiring a total of seven to eight people.

Director Indy Pal said: "It is the fourth site we have opened in a 10-year period. We are a long-established company."

Motorland already runs three dealerships in Walsall

● Picture – Page 3

POLICE

Dog walker finds dead deer in field

TWO dead deer were found by a dog walker after being dumped in a field.

One had been shot while the second had a broken leg and a neck wound.

They were found on Thursday night in a field off Broad Lane, Essington. Staffordshire Police believe the animals were killed elsewhere before being dumped in Essington.

Anyone with information is asked to call the force on 101 and quote incident 759 of December 29.

PLANNING

Kebab house extra hours bid rejected

A KEBAB house in Cheslyn Hay has been told it cannot open seven days a week – despite a neighbouring takeaway having no restriction on opening hours.

Kebab King, in Rosemary Road, lodged a planning application to vary its opening hours to operate Sundays and bank holidays but South Staffordshire Council refused the proposal. A fish and chip shop in Rosemary Road has no restriction.

INSIDE

TEAM STAY IN THE RUNNING

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Rugby club stalwart's New Year honour

Elfyn with a coaching award

THE driving force behind Willenhall Rugby Club been recognised in the New Year honours list. Elfyn Pugh has been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to the sport.

Mr Pugh has served the club for more than 60 years and his dedication was honoured a year ago when England ruby head coach Eddie Jones presented him with an RFU lifetime achievement award at Twickenham.

The 83-year-old, who received his first major award from the Midland RFU 10 years ago, said: "I thought going to Twickenham was the ultimate accolade but this is a fantastic honour."

Mr Pugh helped find a permanent home for the Willenhall club in Bognop Road, Essington in 1966.

Qualified

He was a player at the time and since then has held every position from fixture secretary to president while also serving on a number of county committees and being chairman of Staffordshire Rugby Union between 2002 and 2004.

He qualified as an RFU Preliminary Award holder in 1970 and coached at schools across the region.

Mr Pugh, who lives in Willenhall, added: "It has been a joy work with a county like Staffordshire but the person who really deserves the award is my wife."

Dedicated community servants are honoured

COMMUNITY figures from all walks of life have been recognised in the Queen's New Year's Honours.

Among them is Alan Tuckett, from the University of Wolverhampton, who has received the most notable recognition. He will collect a knighthood in recognition of his work in developing further education.

University vice chancellor, Professor Geoff Layer said: "Throughout his illustrious career, Professor Sir Alan Tuckett has forged a reputation as 'the voice of adult education' and his work has been dedicated to breaking down barriers enabling adults to access education.

"Forty years after helping to establish the very idea of the 'adult learner' in the 1970s, today he inspires the next generation of educators in his role as professor at the University of Wolverhampton."

Stunned

Unsung heroes were also rewarded for years of hard work, including 96-year-old Derek Elton, who has been involved with the Scouts in Stourbridge from the age of 15.

Mr Elton, who remains president of the Kinver Scout Camp, said: "I was absolutely stunned. But I am delighted." He receives an MBE.

Gordon Evans, chairman of Stafford Town Football Club, receives the British Empire Medal (BEM).

Pauline Hodgetts has strived for 40 years to make her home town Tipton a better place, leading the friends group at Victoria Park and helping to run a sons of rest group allowing pensioners to socialise with friends.

She has been awarded the BEM for services to her community.

She said: "You just carry on on doing things because you really enjoy doing them and then you find out you've been recognised like this. It's absolutely fantastic."

Judith Morris, from Halesowen, is another to have been awarded a BEM for almost 60 years of service with St John Ambulance. Mrs Morris joined as a cadet in 1959 and worked her way up to become a unit manager. She is now responsible for training up the next generation of lifesavers.

She said: "I didn't expect it at all. It is just an honour to think I have been recognised and appreciated for what I do and the volume of work I do."

Diana Seeney, from Wall Heath, has been honoured for services to the Girls' Brigade. She said: "I am so excited. I was very surprised when I heard about this. I think that when you do volunteering work you don't expect to get recognition for it. So this will be something very special."

The former Mayor of Dudley Steve Waltho, who is a councillor in the town, has been made an MBE for services to local government in the Dudley borough. He said: "I'm deeply honoured, very humbled, I just work for the good of others." There was also recognition for Paul Strothers, from Wolverhampton, the former chief executive of aerospace firm Zodiac, which made seats for aeroplanes. He has been awarded an MBE for his work in the industry. David Harcourt was awarded an MBE for services to Stourbridge.

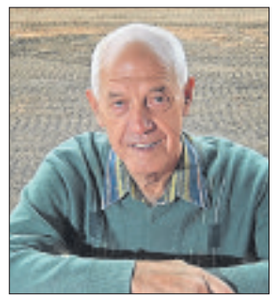
The Diocese of Lichfield's director of education Colin Hopkins receives the MBE for his services to education as a school governor and chair of trustees of the Church of England Central Education Trust.

Diana Seeney, MBE, for her work with The Girls Brigade

Derek Elton MBE, right, with Jim Jukes in 2008

Pauline Hodgetts BEM, of Tipton

Councillor Steve Waltho MBE



Stafford Town chairman Gordon Evans

Why beauty spot's name is mud with walkers . . .

CANNOCK Chase has been named one of the muddiest walks in the country.

A study of 2,000 people has revealed that the beauty spot made a top 10 of muddiest walks and bike routes in the UK, alongside walks in the Scottish Highlands and Snowdonia.

It is part of research which discovered that more than half of Brits will not go on a family walk, in order to avoid getting muddy and save having to tidy up afterwards.

Around 78 per cent of them say the weather would deter them from a number of outdoor activities which includes cycling, running and rambling.

This is despite the fact 88 per cent – say they love the outdoors.

Jack Sweeney, from Kärcher, which carried out the survey, said: "Whilst we are a nation that loves the great outdoors, it's clear from the research that the thought of cleaning up means we don't get to explore the beautiful green spaces, right on our doorstep."

They also found that the mud stops children playing outside because it could ruin their clothes and could bring mud into the house. Because of the mess, 75 per cent of parents aged between 25 and 34 say they stop their children from going outdoors if it is too muddy.

Additionally, three in five dog owners say that they regularly skip their dog's daily walk during the wetter months.

Council to spend £310m on care

STAFFORDSHIRE County Council's leader says the authority will continue to build on the economic success of recent years.

In his new year message, Councillor Philip Atkins says the authority will focus on encouraging growth.

Pointing to historic high levels of employment, a high number of schools rated 'good' and investment in new business parks, faster broadband and upgraded roads, Councillor Atkins said: "Ensuring people are in work and have money in their pocket to lead the lives they want remains the most important thing we can do to improve family incomes and reduce demand on public services."

He added that in 2018/19 the council will spend a record £310 million on care.

Alert over con calls

STAFFORDSHIRE Police have issued an alert over a man calling homeowners claiming to be part of a government scheme for single occupants, asking to access homes to look at loft insulation. Cannock Chase District Council says it is not aware of any such scheme.

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Third more sex cases reported to NSPCC

CASES of sexual abuse against children in Staffordshire and the Black Country have gone up by almost a third, according to the NSPCC.

The charity referred 155 reports of child sex abuse to councils and police in the two areas in 2016-17 – up from 107 the year before.

Cases are passed on to the necessary authorities by the charity following a tip-off by the public.

The number of referrals in Staffordshire over the two periods rose from 50 to 72.

In Walsall the number of referrals rose from 11 to 24, in Sandwell 23 to 28, in Dudley 12 to 15 and in Wolverhampton 11 to 16.

The charity launched a Light Up Christmas for Children appeal to raise the profile and funds for its work.

It says a child is sexually abused when they are forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities, either physically or online.

John Cameron, head of helplines at the NSPCC, said: "It is deeply worrying so many children are potentially being exposed to such a devastating experience, but at the same time it also suggests that as a society we are much more alert to the risks and much more willing to come forward and share our concerns. Sexual abuse can do huge damage to a child's life and left untreated will often haunt them long into adulthood."

Time is ticking on school places

TIME is running out for parents to make their primary school applications before this month's deadline.

Last year, Staffordshire County Council offered nine out of 10 parents their first-choice primary school, despite rises in pupil numbers putting pressure on places. A total of 98 per cent were allocated one of their top three preferred schools.

Now, parents who have not yet applied for primary school places are being urged to apply to ensure they have the best chance of being allocated one of their preferred schools.

Nearly 1,300 parents failed to apply by the deadline last year.

Primary school applications close on January 15. For more details, visit www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions.

Hearing aid dates

SUPPORT workers with Action for Hearing Loss will be holding free hearing aid drop-in sessions at Cannock Library from 10am to 11.30am on the third Tuesday of every month. The next one is due for January 23.

Car rolls down embankment and overturns

The crashed car on Cannock Chase

POLICE were called to an incident on Cannock Chase in which a car had left the road and rolled down an embankment onto its roof.

No-one was injured in the crash, which happened on New Year's Eve.

Later, police in Cannock took to their Twitter feed to upload a picture of the aftermath and urge drivers to be careful.

They said: "A reminder to drive carefully, especially in inclement weather conditions.

"Thankfully no injuries reported from this incident over the holiday period! -TW." Elsewhere, on the same day, a suspected drink-driver ran off after the car hit a lamp post, leaving the vehicle precariously balancing on two wheels.

The collision happened in Newton Road , Great Barr.

The black BWM ended up on the grassed central reservation near Waddington Avenue.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "At 9.39pm we received a 999 call to a collision on Newton Road. It was a one-car collision. The vehicle was left wedged on a lamp post. It was a suspected drink-driver who made off from the scene. We have a description of the male and we are making inquiries to try and trace them."

Two crews from West Bromwich fire station also attended to make the scene safe.

They released a picture of the car on their Twitter feed. The post said: "Drive safely this New Year please. This collision is a stark reminder. #DriveSafe #drinkresponsibly."

In another incident emergency services were called to a two-car crash in Kidderminster Road South, Hagley.

Councils are accused on mileage payments

COUNCILS in Staffordshire and the Black Country have been accused of paying their staff too much in mileage payments.

The TaxPayers' Alliance has published research which shows many councils have given employees more than the recommended 45p per mile for usage of their own vehicle for business. The amount was set by HM Revenue and Customs five years ago.

The figures showed Wolverhampton City Council paid out 50.5p per mile for the financial year 2016-17, paying out £593,345.

In Cannock, council staff received 52.2p per mile, with £177,766 paid out last year, in Stafford they also got 52.2p a mile, £507,618 in total, and in South Staffordshire, 65p was paid for each mile, £61,908 in total.

Walsall Council paid out 65p mile up to April 1 last year, paying out £795,526 in 2016-17.

Meanwhile, Dudley Council and Staffordshire County Council paid out 45p per mile, paying £1.1 million and £1.9m to its staff respectively.

Wasteful

John O'Connell, chief executive of the TaxPayers' Alliance, said: "Driving is extremely expensive in Britain thanks to sky-high rates of fuel duty and vehicle excise duty, but there's no excuse for councils to pay more than HMRC's approved rate for mileage.

"It's simply not credible for local authorities to plead poverty and raise council tax while paying over the odds for basic expenses, especially when the Government has been telling them to rein in these payments for the past five years. Councils must continue to root out wasteful spending like this."

In 2011, local authorities paid over the odds for members of staff to use their own car, with many giving more than then Government's recommended rate of 40p.

Dudley Council, Sandwell Council, Walsall Council and South Staffordshire Council paid out the highest amounts.

Each council paid the same rate, with rates rising from 58.7p per mile in 2008-09 to 60.1p in 2009-10 and then 65p for 2010-11.

Manager Richard Peace at Motorland 2008 Ltd, which sits on the site of the old Chase Car Sales in Rugeley Road, Hednesford

Dealer in move to old car sales site

A CAR showroom has made a speedy appearance after a previous dealer closed down suddenly.

Motorland 2008 Ltd, opened on the site of Chase Car Sales, in Rugeley Road in Hednesford with the hope of hiring a total of seven to eight people in the future.

Chase Car Sales was boarded up suddenly in November. Less than a month later, Motorland moved in. It has been selling cars since 1981 and already run three dealerships in Walsall at Somerfield Road, Lichfield Road and a service centre at Bloxwich Road.

Director Indy Pal said: "It is the fourth site we have opened in a 10 year period. We are a long-established company.

"Bringing Motorland to Staffordshire is a change to Walsall where the other sites are based. The company is spreading their wings."

Chase Car Sales were unavailable for comment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Co-op branches in donation to needy

MIDCOUNTIES Co-operative Food stores in Cannock embraced the season of giving by donating over £100 worth of products to foodbanks.

During a promotional campaign, a Midcounties member was selected at random and a donation to the value of £100 was made to their local foodbank. The member also won food vouchers worth £250 to spend instore.

Cannock saw a winner at the store on Cannock Road. The store donated a range of food products and essential items for those who needed emergency support. The Midcounties Co-operative Food donated over £2,000 in total across the areas the stores operate.

MP backs city as 2022 Games host

CANNOCK Chase MP Amanda Milling has welcomed the decision to award the Commonwealth Games to Birmingham and its potential positive impact on the the West Midlands.

Mountain biking has been earmarked for Cannock Chase as part of the 2022 competition.

Conservative MP Ms Milling said: "It is great news that Birmingham have secured the 2022 Commonwealth Games. This is fantastic news for the area and the local economy, as the games will see a significant number of visitors come to Cannock Chase."

Writers can gain tips from author

WANNABE short-story writers could gain inspiration for their tales from a new eBook.

Staffordshire author Jenny Roman has released Short Story Competitions: A Writer's Guide to Success.

The eBook, priced at £1.99 on Amazon, will show readers how to pen their own short stories and enter competitions. Ms Roman said: "It has been written specifically for those new to short story writing.

"It's full of all the tips I've picked up from my own experiences as both a competition entrant and a judge."

Opportunity to learn about bird watching

WOULD-BE bird watchers are being offered free monthly teach-ins about the activity in Lichfield.

The course, being held by the Canal & River Trust at Fradley Junction, will take place monthly on the following dates: January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9 and July 14.

The sessions start at 9am and last up to three hours depending on weather conditions and bird activity.

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COUNTY NEWS

Calls con help for sufferers

AN organisation with branches in the West Midlands which works to stop scams is helping people with dementia avoid being conned.

The National Trading Standards Scam Team, a Neighbourhood Watch West Midlands partner, has secured Government funding to provide free call blocking technology to protect those in the most vulnerable circumstances from nuisance and scam calls.

Free call blockers will be available to any person with dementia receiving scam or nuisance calls.

Please note there is a limited number of units available. For details, visit www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk.

City firm teams up with heart charity

A BIRMINGHAM-based research agency has teamed up with a heart charity for 2018 to help raise awareness of common conditions.

BMG Research, based on Greenfield Crescent in Birmingham, has named Heart Research UK as their charity partner for 2018. The company announced the news at their Christmas party, which included a raffle that raised more than £1,000 for the charity.

Heart Research UK, based in Leeds, opened an office in Birmingham in 2007 to support heart patients and local research projects across the Midlands.

Holocaust survivor to give special talk

A HOLOCAUST survivor is set to give people a glimpse into the horrors of the Second World War. Henri Obstfeld will share his story at the University of Wolverhampton.

His visit to the city will come ahead of Holocaust Memorial Day, which will commemorate the millions who died at the hands of the Nazis.

The lecture, which will take place on January 25, will also give guests the chance to quiz Mr Obstfeld about his experience.

Shire horse show to mark 140 years

A SHOW featuring the world's largest gathering of Shire horses will mark its 140th anniversary next year.

The National Shire Horse Show returns to the Staffordshire Showground for the third year in succession, from March 16 to 18.

Adult tickets are £10 in advance or £12 on the gate, while tickets for children aged five to 13 are £8 in advance or £10 on the gate.

Trader is Santa to burglary-hit boys

A REAL-LIFE Santa saved Christmas for a mother and her two boys after burglars ransacked their home and stole the children's presents.

The thieves struck on Christmas Eve at the home in Walsall while mother-of-two Amy Turley was working a night shift on the cancer ward at Sandwell Hospital, West Bromwich.

After hearing of her plight, Wolverhampton toy shop owner Iain Ashbourne delivered 13 bags of toys in the early hours of Christmas Day.

"I couldn't bear to think of them without a present to open," he said.

Chemotherapy nurse Amy returned home to find the house in disarray with £600 worth of gifts under the tree and more hidden upstairs ripped open and taken. Among them were six Lego sets and a light-up scooter. A 50in TV set and other items were also stolen. Her sister-in-law Gail Perkins, a police officer in Cannock, shared what happened on social media.

Messages of sympathy and support poured in – including an appeal for help from comedian Jason Manford who said that if he lived nearer he would have taken something himself.

Mr Ashbourne, owner of Batteries Not Included in the city centre, returned to the shop at midnight to fill his car with toys before delivering them to the Turleys' house on the Yew Tree estate. He even took a gift of bath bombs for Amy. Members of the public also donated gifts including two bags of toys from Great Wyrley.

Divorced Amy, 38, whose sons were with their father in Telford, said: "It was amazing. Iain even included wrapping paper and batteries. The Christmas spirit is truly still alive."

Harts of gold – family's collection for homeless

By Simon Stone

THE Harts proved they were all heart when the family brought some cheer to the homeless by donating more than 560 gifts and £460 cash.

Jay and Hayley Hart, of Mount Street, Hednesford, launched a 12 Days of Christmas charity drive in November to collect supplies for Birmingham Christmas Shelter.

The campaign invited people to collect a different item over 12 days from December 1 which would be delivered to the shelter on Christmas Eve.

Jay and Hayley

Donations included 50 pairs of socks, 32 toothbrushes, 27 combs, three watches, 20 razors, 10 hand warmers and a coat. Mother-of-two Hayley said: "I cannot thank those who have been involved enough for their support and donations.

"I am overwhelmed at the response to my plea to help those in need this Christmas.

"Special thanks should go to Annabelle Parkhouse in Basingstoke, Jelly Beans Toddler Group and Living Springs Community Church in Cannock and Kingfisher School in Redditch.

"I also wanted to mention Vale of Evesham school who took on our charity drive pledge to provide for their own local homeless shelter."

Earlier in the year the kind-hearted Harts raised £250 in two days to deliver much-needed supplies to Hednesford's Pye Green Christian Centre food bank. They stepped in to help when they read of the charity's supplies crisis in the Chronicle.

The family decided to donate £100 but soon found other people were keen to give to the cause.

Residents treated to festive theatre trip

Prospect Village residents get ready to board the coach for the trip to see pantomime Snow White

DOZENS of residents were whisked off on a theatre trip thanks to an early Christmas present from the council.

In total, 67 people from Prospect Village, Rawnsley, were taken by coach to the Prince of Wales Centre to see the pantomime Snow White.

The outing was organised by the Circle of Residents Association (CORA) and made possible thanks to £1,151 worth of funding from Staffordshire County Council.

Group secretary Arnold Stakes, aged 79, said: "Everybody had a great time. The show was exceptional."

CORA has been operating for several years. All residents who live in the 95 homes on the estate are automatically members. The group carries out a number of roles in trying to foster community spirit, particularly helping out some of the more elderly residents who suffer from isolation and loneliness.

Some activities amount to simple gatherings while members also drive others to the hospital and pick up prescriptions.

Treasurer Mary Stakes, aged 69, said: "We have done trips out and we arrange fish and chip suppers. We all just try to look after each other."

The council provides £250 a year to help with running costs while the group does its own fundraising.

Williamson halts plan for Army rebrand

DEFENCE Secretary Gavin Williamson has halted plans to scrap the Army's 'Be the Best' slogan and its historic crest.

The South Staffordshire MP, formerly the Chief Whip, was responding after an official document, which had been leaked, suggested the slogan and crest depicting crossed swords, a crown and a lion were to be dropped as part of a £520,000 rebrand.

The 'Army Be The Best' logo

The MoD said: 'Like all organisations we adapt our brand to make sure it is up to date. Be the Best has been used since 1993 and, following detailed research, we've decided to update our branding at a cost of £520,000."

However, following criticism, an MoD spokesman said: "The Defence Secretary believes that the British Army is the best of the best and has put these proposals on hold."

The Army crest was to be replaced by a fluttering Union flag with the word ARMY in bold type underneath.

Some officials claimed Mr Williamson's intervention would anger Army top brass. However, the rebranding project had been widely criticised.

Julian Lewis, chairman of the Commons Defence Select Committee, said: "Being the best is nothing to be ashamed of – it is a matter for pride."

Colonel Richard Kemp, former commander of UK troops in Afghanistan, said it was 'lunacy' to spend money on a 'futile' rebranding in the face of a reduced defence budget.

Dark brew voted as best real ale

A STAFFORDSHIRE-BREWED mild has been judged the champion beer of the West Midlands.

Dark Raven, a 4.5 per cent strength dark mild from Beowulf Brewing Company, was announced as the overall gold winner at the Campaign for Real Ale's West Midlands awards at the Bartons Arms pub in Aston, Birmingham. Beowulf received the Bob Jones Memorial Trophy, named after the late West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

The brewery, which originally started in Birmingham in 1997, has been at Chasewater since 2003.

Branch magazine of the year winner was Heart of Staffordshire Camra, which covers Stafford, with Dudley and South Staffordshire branch winning the award for best website.

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Diocese is supporting anti-slavery initiative

CHURCHES across Staffordshire and the Black Country are teaming up to tackle modern slavery.

The Clewer Initiative involves the Diocese of Lichfield and is backed by Prime Minister Theresa May. The diocese is one of 11 which has signed up to the initiative.

They work together to raise awareness of modern slavery, support victims and share intelligence.

David Primrose, Diocese of Lichfield Director of Transforming Communities, said: "When churches are close to the ground, and listening to their local communities, then with basic information we can spot signs of possible trafficking and alert the appropriate authorities."

In a statement of support for the launch, Mrs May said: "I value the work that the Clewer Initiative will be doing to enable the Church of England dioceses and wider church networks to develop strategies to tackle modem slavery."

Kevin Hyland, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, said: "Faith groups have influence, insight and rare avenues into the community; they are therefore a powerful tool in the fight against modern slavery.

"The Church of England has acted on this unique ability by launching The Clewer Initiative, which adds backbone to the church's anti-slavery approach."

Collectables on offer at toy fair

THE first Walsall Wood Toy and Train Fair of the year takes place this weekend.

It runs 10,30am to 3pm on Sunday at the Oak Park Active Living Centre, Coppice Road, Walsall Wood.

It will feature more than 80 tables, offering a wide range of toys, model railways, commercials, buses, cars and aeroplanes, alongside other collectables including books, lego toys, and figures.

Model bus collectors Geoff and Linda Price from Walsall, have organised the popular event for more than 25 years.

Admission is £1.80 adults and children £1 with on-site car parking. Additional parking is available on the old leisure centre site. Call 01922 643385.

Big Dave is guest

THE Men of Burntwood welcome 'Big Dave' Wilkins with his presentation titled My Life of Crime to their meeting on Wednesday, January 10, at St Matthews Sports and Social Club at 7.45pm. Call 01543 682448.

Brave youngster Lyra 'progressing well'

Lyra Davis – treatment

A GIRL battling a debilitating condition which hinders her speech and her ability to walk is 'progressing well' after treatment in Slovakia.

Hednesford youngster Lyra Davis, aged two, was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and global development delay.

But thanks to more than £20,000 in donations which poured in during 2017 her mother Jane Heggie was able to take her to the Adeli Medical Centre in the eastern European country in November for rehabilitation.

In the latest update on the 'Lyra Can' Facebook page, her family said she is now using splints to support her legs, and neurologists at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham were due to investigate her MRI scan in more detail. It is now thought the youngster's multiple issues, such as muscle spasms, movements problems and speech delay, may have individual causes as opposed to just one.

Lyra's family are hoping she will be put forward for the 100,000 Genomes Project to improve understanding, diagnosis and treatments for rare diseases and conditions.

They expressed their gratitude to everyone following her progress and offering financial support.

The post concluded: "Every day is still an adventure with Lyra – some days are full of energy, some days she is still really tied up with spasms.

"She is progressing so well, and we're so proud of how she's doing.

"Lyra was able to open some of the presents Santa left and she's been really interested in some of them.

"We'll let you know what we're planning in 2018 soon, but until then thanks for everything you've done for us and our family."

Parking charges bring in £3m for hospitals

HOSPITALS in Staffordshire raised more than £3m in parking charges in just one year, new figures show.

University Hospitals of North Midlands, which runs County Hospital in Stafford, raised £3.6m in the last financial year, up from £3.3 the year before.

The money came from charging patients, visitors and staff to park.

The total amount raised puts the trust in the top 10 in the country for parking income.

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, which runs Cannock Chase Hospital, made £2.3m in the last financial year – £685,380 from staff and £1.6m from visitors. This was up from £2.2m the year before.

The trust also raised £1,328 in hospital fines in the last financial year. In total, NHS hospitals made £174m in parking charges.

At County Hospital in Stafford it costs from £1.70 for up to an hour's parking to £8.60 for between eight and 24 hours.

At Royal Stoke University Hospital it is £1.80 for up to an hour to £9 for eight to 24 hours.

Fair

Lorraine Whitehead, director of estates, facilities and private finance initiative at University Hospitals of North Midlands, which also runs Royal Stoke University Hospital, said: "The trust's car parking policy was approved to ensure that parking arrangements were fair to all staff. The policy is fully compliant with all current legislation. Any surplus finance generated from car parking operations is reinvested back into direct patient care."

Shadow health secretary Jonathan Ashworth said: "Hospital parking charges are an entirely unfair and unnecessary burden." Rachel Power, chief executive of the Patients Association, said: "For patients, parking charges amount to an extra charge for being ill.."

● Three quarters of people who voted in a poll say hospital parking charges should be abolished. The ExpressandStar.com online poll, which asked if charges should be scrapped, has come back with a majority verdict. More than 1,000 readers took part, with 75 per cent agreeing that the charges should be abolished.

Cast's swashbuckling production

Stonnall Players cast members who will be performing in The King of Spain's Treasure at the village hall

STONNALL Players have unearthed a departure from the usual full-scale panto for its latest production.

The main event is 'The King of Spain's Treasure', loosely based on Treasure Island and featuring a band of dastardly pirates, a treasure map and chest, along with a few surprises. For the rest of the show, the audience is invited to the Players' pirate radio station and its host Joy Plumley, who will chat to several cast members about their favourite entertainment, including songs and comedy sketches, to be cast away with on a desert island. These will then be performed live from a 'tropical island', which has its own licensed bar that will be open for refreshments.

The show runs from 7.30pm on January 12 and 13 at Stonnall Village Hall, Main Street. Tickets are £7 adults, £3 children or £18 for a family, available by phone or text 07516 274765 or email stonnallplayers@gmail.com

Proceeds will go to the RNLI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Petrol poured over police patrol cars

A MAN arrested under suspicion of dousing a police station in petrol has been released under investigation.

It follows an incident at 5.30pm on Christmas Day when someone threw petrol over Rugeley Police Station in Anson Street as well as the marked cars that were outside.

A 42-year-old man from Rugeley was arrested on suspicion with intent to endanger life but he was released from police custody without being charged.

Anyone with information about the incident has been asked to call 101, quoting incident number 141 of 25 December.

Vets issue warning over bird flu risk

PEOPLE who own birds are being warned of the dangers of bird flu.

Shires Vets, which has a number of surgeries in Staffordshire, is highlighting the risk of wild birds infecting poultry farms and smallholdings. It comes as the winter migration season for birds is currently in full flight.

The Government has raised the risk level of infection in wild birds from low to medium after outbreaks in Italy and Bulgaria saw almost 900,000 birds culled. Now, vets are advising owners to consider how they will house their birds if an outbreak is confirmed.

Old bank building goes for £320,000

A FORMER NatWest branch sold for £320,000 at a property auction.

The building in Market Square, Rugeley, was one of eight branches that sold for a total of more than £2 million in the auction at Villa Park.

The 4,126 sq ft Grade II-listed former bank in Rugeley had a guide price of more than £240,000.

The hammer also came down at £730,000 for a former police station in Perry Barr.

In all, the lots at the auction, staged by SDL Auctions Bigwood, went for a total of more than £16m.

Walking groups will head for Chasewater

CHASE Ramblers' walk this Sunday is a nine-mile moderate walk from Chasewater, meeting at the first car park on the left opposite the Innovation Centre for a 9.30am prompt departure. For details call Neil on 01543 270862. New walkers are welcome.

Today (Thursday), Wolverhampton Ramblers are going on an eight-mile walk at Chasewater starting from the car park at the South Shore railway line at 10am.

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

So Ringo what have you done to merit this?

A GREATER mind than mine is needed to work this one out. Back in 1965, when Beatlemania was at its height, Ringo Starr was appointed an MBE, along with the rest of his bandmates.

In 1970, when The Beatles finally broke up having released their final album there were no further honours, presumably because the MBEs were thought to suffice.

Paul McCartney was given a knighthood in 1997, but nothing more for Starr, presumably because the MBE was still considered sufficient. Indeed, there was no mention of him in the Queen's birthday honours, and that was only six months ago. Nor in the previous New Year's honours list or the one for David Cameron's resignation, four months earlier.

So Ringo's honour is obviously for something he has achieved since June last year, something that completely eclipses his work with The Beatles. Perhaps somebody can tell me what it is?

❐❐❐

DAVID Beckham reveals that at times of stress, he plays with Lego to help him relax. Which reminds me of a joke dating back to his playing days, when the midfielder asked the then Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson for help with a jigsaw.

"Boss, boss, you've gotta help me," he shouted nervously. "I wanted to show Victoria I am not thick, that I can do a jigsaw puzzle, but it's so hard."

Looking slightly confused, Ferguson asked Beckham where the puzzle was.

"It's here boss, it's meant to be a cockerel, but no matter how I arrange all the pieces, it doesn't look right."

Ferguson sighed wearily, and placed a fatherly hand on Beckham's shoulder.

"David, David, son," he said. "Just put the cornflakes back in the box."

❐❐❐

EXCITING news from the Government, which is spending millions to ensure all mainline trains have "superfast wi-fi connectivity". Apparently, this means every passenger will be able to watch videos at the same time, which is great news for ticket inspectors who will have to interrupt every passenger from their viewing.

Can you imagine anything more hateful? Whole carriages of people lost in their own little world, a cacophony of whistling noises emanating from the headphones like tinnitus for anybody not wishing to participate. The work involves laying hundreds of miles of fibre-optic cables alongside the tracks, so you can imagine the disruption.

Call me a luddite, but wouldn't you prefer the money was spent on a bit of real "connectivity", like reopening some of the railway lines around the Black Country?

From fake news and Bake Off to the TV licence fee

Donald Trump – if somebody takes a pot-shot will guards shout: "Donald, duck!"

Gary Lineker – takes TV licence fees from more than 15,000 homes to employ him

The Krankies – reader asks: "After Scottish independence, who gets custody of them?"

Annual line-up: So who can Trump this?

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

ANOTHER year is almost over. My thanks to all readers, especially those of you whose contributions enlivened this column in 2017.

Here's a selection of snippets month-by-month recalling a year of everything from fake news to Bake Off, cold snaps and the TV licence fee.

JANUARY: A reader asks, if somebody takes a pot-shot at President Trump, will the bodyguards shout: "Donald, duck!"

FEBRUARY: The Government says old folk occupying big houses will be "given incentives" to move into smaller properties. A reader asks: "Will the same criteria apply to the stately piles of England: Buckingham Palace,Windsor Castle and Clarence House?" Any more questions like that, my lad, and you'll find yourself in a very large dwelling. The Tower.

MARCH: A reader inquires: "After Scottish independence, who gets custody of the Krankies?"

APRIL: Still on religion, Easter eggs and such-like, a reader points out that there is no such person as the Archbishop of Cadbury.

MAY: A reader writes: "Historians have revealed that they may have found the location in Suffolk where St Edmund is buried. It is thought to be in the town of Bury St Edmunds. How much do these people earn, and where do I apply for a job?"

JUNE: The unspeakable leader. The official election leaflet has just arrived from our local Labour candidate. It contains not a single mention of Jeremy Corbyn.

JULY: If you haven't done the sums yet, it takes the TV licence fees from more than 15,000 homes to employ Gary Lineker at the BBC for a year.

AUGUST: A close look at the neo-Nazi marchers in Charlottesville reveals the usual snarling, dead-eyed losers you see at any far-right gathering. Whenever you meet the Master Race, it's always a disappointment.

SEPTEMBER: Prue Leith, the Bake Off judge, pins the blame on our "centrally heated houses and sedentary lifestyle" for contributing to obesity. Nothing to do with all those cakes, then?

OCTOBER: Is anyone else surprised that, while the weather forecasters queued up to explain why the sky had turned orange a few days ago, no-one warned us in advance that it was going to happen? Not so much forecasting as aftcasting.

NOVEMBER: If Moscow really is planting fake news to bring down the West, expect it to be a well-concealed operation. You know how it is. You open one Russian troll and there's another troll inside .

DECEMBER: Hell's teeth. If this cold weather continues we babyboomers in our huge palaces may be forced to spend our winter fuel allowance on winter fuel. That was never the plan.

So that was the year, that was. And now for some snippets to kick off 2018 . . .

ALL hail the new blue passport, the visible symbol of the UK finally divorced from the EU. In the great scheme of things, the colour of a document that most of us use only once or twice a year may seem insignificant. But such things matter, if only to reassure 17 million voters that HMS Brexit, having been tied to the EU quayside in miles of red tape for the past 18 months, is about to set sail.

CASTLE Lodge in Ludlow is one of the quirkiest old buildings I've ever visited, probably because it is privately owned and occupied and there's a strange sense of intruding into somebody's secret world. So good luck to the £500,000 appeal to acquire and restore it, although I understand the sentiments of a reader who declares: "Food banks in every town – and yet another old building takes precedence!" The point is that if every old-building appeal were wound up tomorrow, the money would still not alleviate poverty. Now that we have hundreds of them, food banks, like the poor, will always be with us. As long as some people are happy to collect and distribute food to the less well-off and and other people are grateful to accept it, the food banks will endure. It is pointless and insulting to regard them as a national disgrace.

A CROSS-party group of MPs says travellers who set up illegal camps should be forced to pay for the cost of cleaning up any mess they leave behind. Good luck with that. I have a mental image of a determined and stern-faced MP handing a bill to one such family and inexplicably ending up with an even bigger bill for 50 yards of asphalt he never wanted.

TALKING POINT

What's this obsession with TV and smuggling?

FOR some reason the subject of smuggling has suddenly become a hot topic and not just in the stories which make the news these days. Take a recent weekend's TV schedules for example.

First we had Sir Tony "Time Team" Robinson in Cornwall with his Walking Through History, and he was determined to dig up all the facts he could on smuggling there.

It was an interesting insight into a precarious but lucrative industry, but blow me down, who was this in hot pursuit of the Time Team man? Only one of the West Midlands' finest. Coastal Railways with Julie Walters was an affectionate trip along scenic routes. And aside from wallowing in the Cornish scenery, she was equally happy poking about for clues to how smugglers operated.

Then just as we thought there was nothing more to be said about the subject, up pops the least likely of smuggling fans in Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages. In an attempt to outrun Robinson and Walters, she headed for the Isle of Wight and West Sussex where, to quote Channel 4, she "becomes immersed in stories of seafarers, smugglers and shipwrecks".

Despite the lawlessness of the subject, all three programmes portrayed those ruthless gangs of long ago in a romantic light. And there is something to be said about the thrill of sneaking past the authorities. I was nervous as hell when smuggling my cassette recorder into open-air festivals to obtain what I reckoned would be highly sought-after bootleg tapes of the likes of Pink Floyd and Thin Lizzy.

Only trouble was, my primitive machine made the bands sound like they were playing in a tunnel, and picked up every utterance of the people around me.

Years later, having come straight from work, I had more success taking a tuna sandwich into a football match, despite warning notices at the turnstiles saying only food and drink bought at the kiosks could be consumed inside the stadium.

Of course, there is a very serious side to smuggling, as in the court case where several people were jailed for using drones to get drugs and phones to prison inmates. But sometimes you have to smile at the audacity of some people. I was once in a cinema, waiting for the film to start, when a couple extracted from a carrier bag a flask, sandwiches and for all I know a dessert, and had a real feast. And what had I brought with me? A bottle of tap water from home, just to avoid paying the exorbitant prices in the foyer.

Sometimes, it's best just to be brazen . . . and prepare a convincing excuse for when you're nabbed! STEVE PARLETT

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Out come the mops as burst pipe hits market

STALLHOLDERS lost business in the run-up to their busiest period because of a burst pipe, which they say was avoidable.

Cannock Indoor Market was forced to close for a day after the burst pipe caused flooding and posed a safety hazard.

Efforts were made by stallholders and managers to clean up the mess , which took around four hours.

No-one knows what caused the pipe to burst on December 20 but traders say it has cost them vital business.

Doris Bradbury, from Heath Hayes, has owned The Rug Store for 15 years, which is where the incident happened.

The 62-year-old said: "It was torrential, there was water everywhere.

Doris Bradbury – 'water everywhere'

Greg Kousouros – 'we all lost trade'

Larry Lal – 'all the traders pitched in to help, and the managers too'

Dangerous

"It is because the building is very old, but I had to move all of the rugs, and some of them got damaged, so I have lost that stock which I may have sold.

"The whole market had to shut because it was so dangerous and such a hazard to people who worked there and who were visiting. But the managers did come and mop up so everyone helped out," she added.

Gregory Kousouros, 70, from Cannock, owns one of the butchers closest to the leak, the Chicken Stall.

He said the problem was reported earlier the same week and someone was due to fix it on the Thursday, but it burst the previous day.

He added: "We all lost trade, and we cannot afford it at this time of year.

"I am not very happy, mostly because it was avoidable.

"They were told there was a leak and someone was coming, it simply wasn't in time. "Nothing like this has happened before, thankfully."

The stallholders said that because there are no drains, they had to try and soak up the water using mops, old cloths and cardboard and then leave the heating on so that the market would dry out in time for them to open again the next day.

Larry Lal, 67, from Wolverhampton owns a nearby clothes stall.

He said: "We had not got the right equipment to soak it up, but all the traders pitched in to help, and the managers too."

The pipe was subsequently turned off, and managers were able to reopen the market.

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Whatever happened to contact?

HAVE the days of human contact and conversation passed us by?

We visit the bank and can deposit or withdraw our money using a machine, without even talking to a cashier.

Visit the supermarket and we are encouraged to use the self-service tills. Again, no-one speaks.

Even on a visit to the GP surgery, you press a few buttons on the computer to let them know you have arrived, and there is no conversation with the receptionist.

A great many people are lonely and would love a simple 'Good morning, how are you?'.

Is this a sign of the times we live in?

M PICKIN
Cannock

Trusts waste millions on needless legal fees

THE report on the amounts of money being paid in compensation and litigation by hospital trusts due to clinical negligence doesn't address the underlying causes ("NHS trust £12m blunders bill", December 28).

Some negligence claims involve compensatory awards that help the claimant to adjust their lives to their disabilities arising from the hospitals' negligence. But many millions are wasted on unnecessary legal fees defending the reputation of the hospital in question. I lost a granddaughter at one such hospital in recent years, and we witnessed the dreadful conditions that led to her sad demise.

However, we were met with a solid wall of denial by the trust's executive officers. Despite what we as a family had witnessed, they offered meaningless platitudes and obduracy.

No-one in the family wanted to sue our NHS. We all know just how starved of money services are, but in order to get to the truth and help prevent similar occurrences in future, litigation became the only option.

JOHN DAVENPORT
Wolverhampton

Trying to do same thing all over again

AN open letter to the PM:

Ms May, Cameron is remembered as a traitor who tried to sell the GB down the river to the EU.

The British public saw through him. Now, you are trying to do what he failed to do by stealth; you are no less of a traitor, just a more convincing one.

Nevertheless, the ballot box rules in this country; the 'Leavers' gave you a warning about your 'Remain' tactics when you did not trigger A50 for nine months and you lost your parliamentary majority. The 'local' elections are in May. I believe many more 'Leavers' will return to UKIP, who will fight for the 'Brexit' which 'Leavers' voted for.

THOMAS TURNER
Rugeley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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£2,000 fine is peanuts for manager

CARDIFF CITY'S Neil Warnock has been fined for his abusive tirade at the fourth official during a match.

The amount of his fine – £2,000 – is peanuts to people in his position.

Perhaps a better idea would have been to ban him from his employer's premises for a few matches.

The Wolves manager got a similar fine a few weeks ago for a 'disagreement' with an opposition manager – not an FA official.

Does Mr Warnock's punishment fit the crime? He does have 'form' for shenanigans at a football match.

With someone showing such disrespect to the FA and its officials a small fine is not an encouragement to better behaviour in future.

M GOUGH
Wolverhampton

A garden intruder on the lookout for lunch

I THOUGHT readers might like to see a picture I took when we were about to feed the birds in our garden.

To our amazement, there was a big cat sat in one of the birdhouses in our garden; perhaps he was hoping for some lunch.

I had to take the picture through the lounge window as I was sure I would have scared it off as soon as I opened the kitchen door.

STAN HARPER
Burntwood

Hungry eyes – hoping for lunch

Don't forget town centre

NOW that the controversial issue of the flood alleviation scheme is nearing completion we must press ahead with getting the regeneration of Rugeley town centre put into effect, as was promised in the Environment Agency's policy paper: "The 5.2m flood defence scheme reduces the risk of flooding to 114 residential properties and 159 commercial properties and also forms an integral part of the local council's plans to regenerate parts of the town centre".

KIERAN GREEN Rugeley

Retiring Rev stands in for Santa

Shareshill WI

PRESIDENT Margaret Beddard welcomed members and guest Irene from Hayes Green WI to the Christmas party.

Unfortunately the Heathside Group carol service at Cannock had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the heavy snowfall, but three days later Margaret and Pauline were guests at Cannock WI where they enjoyed lovely food and entertainment and were both lucky enough to win raffle prizes.

The WI's chosen charity for donations instead of sending each other Christmas cards was West Midlands Air Ambulance Service. The January 18 meeting will be a members' games night.

This was Rev Sara's last Christmas with the group as she is retiring in February and moving to Warwickshire. She kindly stood in for Father Christmas to distribute gifts from Santa's sack and with this task accomplished, the party started in earnest thanks to splendid entertainment from Mike Charlton with songs and music from the 60s onwards until it was time to sample Em Barker's wonderful buffet. A competition for the best Christmas headgear judged by Mike was won by Lynn Ruffelle.

After raffling off lovely prizes donated by members it was time for Mike to up the tempo and there was much energetic dancing in the aisles ending with a Conga round the tables.

Re-Joyce! Gathering as member turns 90

Members help Joyce Hopkins celebrate her 90th birthday

JOYCE Hopkins, long-standing WI Member, born and bred in Hill Ridware, celebrated her 90th birthday with fellow members at the village hall.

A week later, The Ridwares WI held a very successful tinsel and trimmings evening. Mulled wine, mince pies, tea and coffee were served, cake and craft stalls did a roaring trade, together with tombola and a grand raffle. Joyce did the honour of switching on the lights and carols were sung. Grateful thanks must go, once again, to Geoff Gould for supplying the superb Christmas tree. The WI presented cheques, from their 2017 fundraising efforts to Abbie and Ellie for Children in Need, Rosie Taylor for her hard work towards her charity trip to Ecuador and the village hall to enable new tables to be bought.

The Ridwares WI

A splendid WI year was rounded off by the Christmas party at Beau Desert Golf Club, when the ladies enjoyed a three-course meal and entertainment from Rich Parsons.

The next community coffee morning will be on February 6 at 10.30am.

The next meeting of The Ridwares WI will be on February 20. Jane Dayus-Hinch will talk on 'Wedding SOS'.

Nantwich day out enjoyed

Hednesford A TWG

FIFTEEN members had a very enjoyable day at Alvaston Hall, Nantwich.

There was coffee on arrival followed by a three-course lunch, old time and modern dancing, Christmas carols, and then the pantomime Cinderella. Due to the heavy snowfall the 20th birthday and Christmas party were postponed.

The chairman welcomed everyone and gave a special welcome to members of the Federation committee and Cannock Guild committee. They enjoyed a buffet, catered for by Whitehouse's.

Coffee/tea were served and members enjoyed Christmas cake or sponge cake and mince pies. Michael James sang songs from the 50s/60s and concluded with a rendition of White Christmas.

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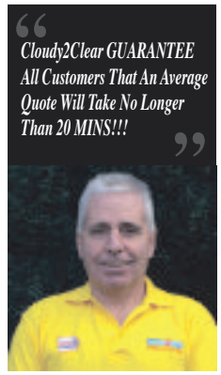

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The luxurious air-conditioned, feminine environment, relaxed coffee lounge and VIP attention given to all members ensures that Gymophobics is like no gym you have been to before. Instructors are constantly on the circuit ensuring technique and programmes are spot on, and they work closely with all ladies during their weight loss journey, offering help and advice whenever needed and reviewing their progress every three weeks. The layout of the gym also allows for socialising with the coffee lounge near the group exercise area. Members are encouraged to meet up outside of their workouts and Gymophobics has helped form hundreds of friendships over the years.

All centres are totally female-run, with Jane managing the Cannock facility, and Layla at Aldridge. All members of staff have undergone intensive training at Gymophobics Training Academy in Stafford and are fully insured. Not only are the workers highly trained, but the equipment is top-of-the-range, with a 10-station air circuit allowing members to enjoy a resisted tension workout. The trademark for their workout enables members to get fast inch-loss results.

Gymophobics has created a safe-haven for ladies to enjoy a silky smooth air-resistance workout programme that doesn't include any clunky weights or hydraulics. The machines are easier on the joints and results are quicker than laborious, lengthy cardio workouts. Gone are the days where you need to spend hours sweating it out; the Gymophobics concept proposes that members work through a whole-body workout in just 30 minutes and do so two or three times a week for fantastic changes. Most ladies drop a dress size in the first few weeks but a personal but a personal assessment will help determine your results and an estimate as to how long they will take to achieve.

If your New Year's Resolution is to shape up or lose weight and you feel you need support to achieve this then Gymophobics is the place for you. Membership gives you unlimited access to a friendly and relaxed gym with no mirrors and no men where no-one is judged for shape, size or age. There is also unlimited fitness classes which are fun and varied; access to all of the qualified instructors who are there for help and support whenever needed;dietary advice and personal programmes designed specifically for each individual member to achieve their personal goals; personal progress reviews every three weeks; ample free parking right next to the centre; and a gym open 7 days a week: Mon & Wed 6:30am-8pm, Tues & Thurs 9am-7:30pm, Fri 9am-6:30pm and Sat & Sun 8:30am-12pm.

With the motivation and support of staff and members, make 2018 your fittest year yet by joining Gymophobics. Call 01543 466679 or visit Watling Court, Orbital Plaza, Cannock, WS11 0DQ.

WIN A 6 MONTH MEMBERSHIP

For a chance to WIN 6 MONTHS FREE MEMBERSHIP just answer the question below and send your answer to Gymophobics, Watling Court, Orbital Plaza, Cannock, WS11 0DQ. Competition deadline is 31st January 2018.

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a) 30 minutes b) 45 minutes c) 60 minutes

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Green Living: New Year's Resolutions

Welcome to Green Living, a new monthly series of articles by **Paul Woodhead**, Green Party councillor on Cannock Chase Council, suggesting practical, easy steps we can all take to make sure our beautiful Earth is preserved in the future for our children

Buying fruit and veg without plastic packaging at The Kitchen Cupboard, Hednesford

EVEN though we face huge environmental problems, if we all make small lifestyle changes, they can have big impact for our planet.

Plastic pollution is at crisis point and most people have seen the shocking images in TV shows like Blue Planet 2 and Sky TV's ongoing campaign about plastic. We can't keep using plastic once and throwing it way; Single Use Plastics are now filling our oceans.

The Ellen MacCarthur Foundation estimates that the weight of plastics in the oceans will exceed fish by 2050.

The 5p charge on plastic bags has been really successful. We've seen a dramatic drop in plastic bag use, and already most of us are happy to carry our own bags when we go shopping.

As we are all considering New Year resolutions, here are five easy lifestyle tips to help you reduce your plastic use in 2018:

TIP 1: Shop local and support your local businesses. Buy fruit and vegetables at a greengrocer, your meat from a butchers, and bread from a bakery. These small businesses are more likely to use less packaging, the goods will have fewer food-miles from field to plate, and for every pound spent with locally owned businesses, 63p will be spent again locally. Also, ask for paper packaging.

TIP 2: If shopping at a supermarket, use options with less plastic. Think about the loose-pick goods or those supplied in one sleeve. Glass and cardboard packaging are a better environmental choice than plastic.

TIP 3: Do not choose goods sold in black plastics at all. Black cannot be recycled as the colour prevents the recycling processes from recognising the type of plastic, and it is rejected and sent to landfill.

TIP 4: Just Say No to drinking straws and plastic cutlery. The average use time is 20 minutes and takes 600 years to decompose. Positively ask for one not to be put in your drink or be supplied with plastic cutlery.

TIP 5: Carry a refillable water bottle or hot-drink cup. Most cafes and fast-food providers will fill your container if you ask.

If you have your own tips for sustainable living, please get in touch and we will share them in a future article.

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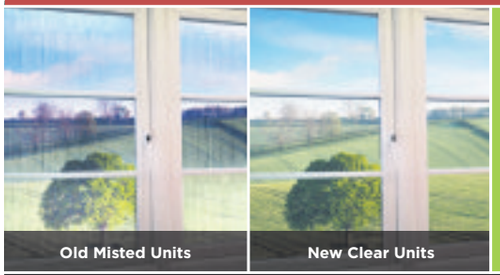

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Award proves city is a 'go to' place

Tourism marketing officer Emily Waldron with the certificate awarded to Visit Lichfield

COUNCIL officers in Lichfield have 'clicked' with the judges in the search for the best use of social media for promoting tourism destinations. In a league table created by industry judges, Visit Lichfield achieved second place out of the organisations in the West Midlands in the English Tourism Social Media Index – up from fifth place in 2016. Destination Staffordshire was in first place.

In the English league table overall, Visit Lincoln claimed the top spot while Visit Lichfield was ranked 31 out of a total 133 tourism bodies included in the index.

Councillor Ian Pritchard, cabinet member for economic growth, environment and development services at Lichfield District Council, said: "It is testament to our small but hard working Visit Lichfield team. It is amazing to think that we ranked higher than Birmingham, Shakespeare's England, Shropshire, Devon, York, Canterbury, Cambridge and many more fantastic places to visit, so we are very proud."

Businesses count cost of traffic congestion

TRAFFIC congestion in Birmingham and Wolverhampton is costing businesses almost £150m – but the situation is improving in the region.

A report has found each commercial vehicle in the region spent an average 112 hours standstill in traffic last year. But that has fallen from 120 hours the year before.

By Alex Ross

Traffic pinch points in the region include the Birchley Island in Sandwell, the A491 between Wolverhampton and Stourbridge and the Black Country Route at the M6 Junction 10.

Railway

A Wolverhampton Council spokesman said work was being done. He said: "Current schemes that will help traffic flow in the City of Wolverhampton are the Interchange project, which will provide a state-of-the-art new railway station benefiting from HS2 connectivity, and will see the Midland Metro extended from St George's down to the new railway station.

"The Stafford Road (A449) gateway improvement works on site now will also have a major impact."

He added schemes being developed to help improve transport capacity were further A449 locations where congestion was an issue.

The figures from TomTom Traffic Index show the cost of traffic to businesses in the country's 25 most congested cities and towns is £915m. It also found the average journey takes 30 per cent longer than it would in free-flowing conditions, up from 25 per cent in 2010.

Beverley Wise, director for TomTom Telematics said: "The UK economy is paying the price for this at a time when the landscape is already challenging enough."

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Volunteers ensure park event will run and run

A FUN run gathering has celebrated its first year – and its army of volunteers have been praised for helping to make it a success.

Catherynne Henderson and Angela Pritchard are part of a 350 strong team of volunteers who take turns, giving up their time each week, to ensure that the Cannock Chase parkrun runs smoothly.

Having begun in November 2016, the parkrun now has around 400 runners taking part every Saturday on the 5km picturesque route around Cannock Chase, starting from Marquis Drive. The event is also supported by Staffordshire County Council park rangers, some of whom have even started taking part in their spare time.

Catherynne said: "Since starting to volunteer and run at parkrun I have made so many friends, and I actually look forward to getting up early on a Saturday to go and see them.

Extended

"I love the feel of parkrun, it is like a huge extended family and everyone is always so happy to see everyone else."

Set-up costs were funded by Staffordshire County Council and Cannock Chase District Council to help increase the number of people taking part in physical activity in the area.

Alan White, deputy county council leader, said: "Our parkrun has become a great event and a wonderful example of people coming together week in week out to support each other. But if it wasn't for the volunteers who give up their time it wouldn't be possible."

Councillor Muriel Davis, health and wellbeing leader at Cannock Chase Council said: "The figures of those attending each week is outstanding, it's fantastic to hear the stories of people who have not only got fit and lost weight, but also built friendships and even say it's changed their lives."

Zoe Burns is the main volunteer co-ordinator and Ellen Williams is co-event director. She said: "We could never have dreamed Cannock Chase parkrun would take off in the way it has. To put this run on each week takes an enormous effort and it would not be possible without all of the wonderful parkrun volunteers."

For details on becoming part of the team visit http://www.parkrun.org.uk/cannockchase/futureroster/

Angela, left, and Catherynne

Volunteers Zoe and Sadie Burns

A group shot of the Cannock Chase parkrun volunteers

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Young people celebrate Trust success

The young people who joined the Prince's Trust Team Programme with Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service

YOUNG people on the Prince's Trust Team Programme with Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service have marked their successful completion of the course.

A get-together was held at the service headquarters where six participants from Stafford Team 10, and 11 from Cannock Team 1, all aged 17 to 22, were joined by their families to celebrate their achievements.

The team programme is a 12-week personal development course which sees participants complete work experience, qualifications, practical skills, community projects and a residential week. During the course the Stafford team's achievements include fundraising £150 to create a first aid themed community project.

Meanwhile, Cannock Team 1 secured the donation of tools, top soil and wood chippings so they could complete a community garden project in conjunction with Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles. The garden, next to St Luke's Church in Cannock, had been plagued by anti-social behaviour, and the students made it into a peaceful oasis for the benefit of everyone in the community.

The students also held a healthy-breakfast morning for the local dementia group which meets at Cannock fire station, and created a soup kitchen for those affected by homelessness and poverty.

Andrew Stanworth, 22, from Norton Canes said: "My motivation has sky rocketed since starting the programme."

Jon Dibble, 21, from Great Wyrley, said: "On this course I have buried my negativity."

Town sites go for £45m

STAFFORD'S Riverside shopping complex and the neighbouring cinema and restaurant development have been sold in a pair of deals totalling more than £45 million.

Both sites were owned by Jersey-based property investment group LXB Retail Properties.

Its Riverside investment has been sold to two trusts managed by Legal & General, which is also the buyer of its Odeon cinema site. It follows LXB's sale of the Kingsmead development to Triple Jersey two years ago.

Chief executive Tim Walton said: "The sale of Riverside and Bridge Street at Stafford represents a further significant step in effecting an orderly disposal of the group's remaining assets and, once the sale of the leisure element is completed, concludes the group's activities in Stafford."

LXB revealed it had exchanged contracts last month for the sale of its Riverside investment, which is let to 13 retailers – M&S, Primark, New Look, River Island, Outfit, Zizzi, JD Sports, Greggs, Vision Express, H&M, Costa, Acapella and Save our Soles.

The £100m Riverside complex opened last summer, creating around 600 jobs, after a three-year development and building project. Three of the 18 units remain empty.

At the same time LXB exchanged on the sale of its leisure investment at Bridge Street to Legal & General. This development will comprise 53,600 sq ft and will be anchored by a six-screen Odeon cinema with seven restaurant units, two of which are open and let to Nando's and Frankie & Benny's.

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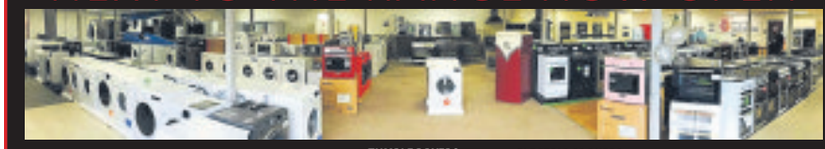

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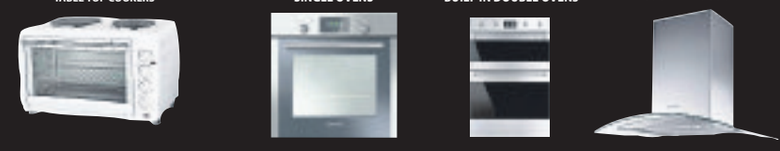

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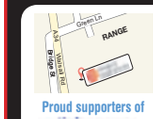

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FOCUS ON BURNTWOOD

Stephen remembered as shoppers swell funds

Stephen's mother Jane Sutton with members of the Wolverhampton Bobsled Team during the fundraiser

GENEROUS shoppers raised hundreds of pounds for the Teenage Cancer Trust in memory of Burntwood's Stephen Sutton.

Shoppers at Bentley Bridge Retail Park, in Wednesfield, raised £539 as part of Stephen's Story.

The money was collected as a special fundraising day in memory of Stephen, who was diagnosed with bowel cancer at the age of 15 and died, aged 19, in May 2014. To mark what would have been his 23rd birthday on December 16, his mother Jane was joined by members of the Wolverhampton Bobsled Team, Neil Hendy and Andy Newman at the retail park.

Andy said: "We thought it would be so fitting and an honour to be out fundraising with Jane. I know Stephen would be very proud of her continuing his amazing work."

Neil added: "It is clear that Stephen's story has impacted so many people. Knowing it was Stephen's birthday and seeing Jane talking to and embracing people who donated brought a tear to my eye."

To date, fundraising in Stephen's name has exceeded £5.6 million for the Teenage Cancer Trust and continues to grow.

Jane said: "I've enjoyed a fabulous year of events with the Wolverhampton Bobsled Team and that takes the total amount raised this year to more than £5,000. I'm sure we're going to have a lot of fun in 2018 as we aim at raising £10,000."

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Rugeley
Rugeley Rose Theatre
Taylors Lane, Rugeley
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Rachel: 07807 785600

Cannock
St Mary's Club & Community Centre
2 Hallcourt Lane (off Walsall Road or Hunter Street),
Cannock, WS11 0HE
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Gill: 07958 000554

Penkridge
Haling Dene Centre,
Penkridge
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Claire: 07540 230230

TUESDAY

Cannock
Avon Business & Leisure Centre,
Jack Holsten Suite, Avon Road,
Cannock
(next to Asda)
9am & 11am
Morning Group
Ring Rose: 07837088159

Huntington
Create Church Community Hub,
Huntington, WS12 4PD
(behind the Co-op)
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Rose: 07837 088159

Penkridge
Peace Memorial Hall,
Pinfold Lane, Penkridge
7.30pm
Ring Claire: 07540 230320

Hednesford
St Josephs Primary School
Hilltop, Hednesford
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Lindsey: 07989 962061

WEDNESDAY

Cannock
St Mary's Club & Community Centre, 2 Hallcourt Lane (off Walsall Road or Hunter Street),
Cannock, WS11 0HE
5.30pm
Ring Gill: 07958 000554

Hednesford
Pye Green Community Centre
Bradbury Lane, Pye Green
9.00am & 11.00am
Morning Groups
Ring Rose: 07837 088159

Chadsmoor
Bethany Baptist Church,
Cannock Road, Chadsmoor
7.30pm
Ring Lesley-Anne: 07966 456412

THURSDAY

Cannock
Avon Business & Leisure Centre
The Chase Suite Avon Road,
Cannock (next to Asda)
5pm & 7pm
Ring Jan:
07939 001558

Hednesford
Aquarius Ballroom, Victoria Street,
Hednesford, Cannock
3.30 & 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Gill:
07958 000554

Rugeley
Mansfield House (next to Aldi),
Market Street, Rugeley
9.30am & 11.30am
Morning Groups
Ring Rachel:
07807 785600

FRIDAY

Hednesford
Aquarius Ballroom
Victoria Street, Hednesford
9.30am *Morning Group*
Ring Gill:
07958 000554

SATURDAY

Pye Green
Pye Green,
Community Centre
Bradbury Lane, Pye Green
11.30am *Morning Group*
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Rox raring to go in fight against crime

German Shepherd Rox and her handler Pc Pete Clarke will be operating in the south Staffordshire policing area

MEET Staffordshire's new crime-fighting duo. One-year-old German Shepherd Rox has just been officially assigned to Pc Pete Clarke. It is the first handling role for the 41-year-old officer from Cannock.

They will be operating in the south Staffordshire policing area covering his hometown, as well as Stafford, Wombourne and Burton. Rox has completed a 13-week training programme covering drills such as chasing and detaining a person, chasing and standing off, 'weapon attacks' to disarm someone holding a firearm, search techniques for vulnerable missing people, search techniques for property, and tracking human scent.

Pc Clarke said: "She is a good all-round dog, not the show standard but she certainly achieved all of the show criteria." Even though Rox has passed, the training continues and she will be put through the paces for 96 hours a year to keep her skills sharp.

Councils set to miss out on business rates help

COUNCILS in Staffordshire are set to miss out on millions of pounds after being rejected from a government business rates scheme.

The pilot would have allowed them to keep 100 per cent of their business rates instead of the current system which sees them retain a smaller portion while the rest is re-distributed by the Government.

By Carl Jackson

Cannock Chase Council was due to receive around £400,000 a year from the pilot. It is a further blow to the authority, which has faced financial setbacks following the early closure of Rugeley Power Station in 2016 costing the council around £1 million a year in lost business rates.

The council's bid to the Government for transitional funding to plug the gap has also since been rejected.

However, the council's leader George Adamson reassured residents that the authority could cope.

He said: "It is quite a blow, and it means another difficult year, but we can manage. We have managed our council's finances very carefully over the last few years. It is going to be difficult but that's why we have reserves to maintain our services."

Staffordshire County Council was due to rake in £10 million a year from the move.

Leader Philip Atkins said the extra income would help 'bridge the gap' in the face of substantial financial black holes in the region of £35m from 2019.

Now the money will have to be found elsewhere. He said: "We felt we put together a very strong submission together with our partners in the district and boroughs and Stoke-on-Trent so it is disappointing to miss out on being part of the pilot scheme for business rates this time around."

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200 fridges are found dumped in eight months

NEARLY 200 fridges have been illegally dumped in South Staffordshire since April – and residents are being warned ahead of an anticipated increase in incidents over the festive period.

South Staffordshire Council's regulatory services chief Councillor Roger Lees said: "It's a problem all over the country. When households buy a new fridge, the old one is left outside for collectors to take. Rogue scrap metal collectors are then taking the fridges, removing the parts that can be sold easily, such as the motors and condensers, before fly-tipping the rest. A lot of residents aren't aware that you can be held responsible if your waste is fly-tipped and traced back to your home.

"It happens when people have failed to make proper checks that the person who offered to take away and dispose of their waste is actually licensed to do so.

"We have successfully prosecuted six people since April 2017 for breaching environmental laws following fly-tipping, and this has resulted in fines and court costs approaching £3,500."

I'm alive! Now it's up to me to see I stay fit and healthy

A WISH came true for transplant patient Nick Done after he shed more than a stone in weight after getting on his bike.

Nick, aged 45, of Rugeley, was diagnosed with kidney failure in 1990 and has had two kidney transplants.

Now, the father-of-three says he is fitter than ever after signing up to JCB's Bike2Work initiative, which sees him cycle a total of 14 miles to and from work each day using a bike he bought under the employee benefits scheme.

He said that shedding weight and getting fitter made it his happiest and healthiest festive season yet.

The technical administrator, who is married to Kathryn and has three children, Tom, 20, Caitlyn, 16, and Evelyn, 13. works at generator manufacturer JCB Power Systems in Hixon, near Stafford. He said: "The Bike2Work scheme has literally changed my life. I am so much fitter now, and my blood pressure has come down significantly, which can only be good for my health issues.

Nick Done with his wife Kathryn and children Caitlyn, Tom and Evelyn

"I don't take anything for granted and enjoy every single day that I spend with my wonderful wife and three amazing kids.

"My kidney donor essentially saved my life, and I owe it to them as well as to my family to do what I can to stay fit and healthy."

Rejected

The government-led Bike2Work initiative is administered through employers and aims to make cycling to work cost-effective by offering tax savings on bikes and equipment.

When Nick was diagnosed with kidney failure, he was put on three four-hour sessions of dialysis a week in order to keep him alive.

After a year he underwent a transplant but his body rejected theorgan and he had to wait a further eight years for a second kidney transplant, which was a success.

7,000 names on petition against turkey farm bid

A 7,000-NAME petition opposing a proposed turkey farm has been submitted.

It was set up by the national animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) last month. The petition urges South Staffordshire Council to reject the plans for four turkey-rearing buildings at Toft Farm in Levedale Road, Penkridge.

The plans have sparked concerns over animal cruelty, increased traffic and the impact on local wildlife.

PETA director Elisa Allen said: "Thousands of compassionate people have spoken, and South Staffordshire Council should heed their concerns for animal welfare, the environment, and the health of the community. PETA is calling for the proposal to be rejected, sparing thousands of birds a lifetime of suffering and an agonising death."

It is the second petition to be set up, after the first one, started by local campaigner Charlie Ward, collected nearly 4,000 signatures. The scheme was put forward by Holt Farms and it would have space for 20,000 birds.

Getting ready for the show, with co-star Rebecca Shepherd

Times have changed – oh yes they have

SHE is a familiar face to many as possibly the longest-serving black pantomime dame in the country. Now, Dennis Ffrench will be taking to the stage this weekend in a production of Beauty and the Beast.

The performance, which was due to take place before Christmas, was rescheduled due to the snow and is now due to take place at Newhampton Arts Centre in Wolverhampton on Sunday.

Dennis, who lives in Burntwood, is donning his panto costume complete with sultry red lipstick, polka-dot white and red dress and the stylish white hair bow and stripy socks.

In the production, delivered by Working Theatre, Dennis plays the comedic role of Ding Dong Bell – Beauty's fictitious mother in Working Theatre company's interpretation of the classic story.

He started his career as a dame in 1995 after taking on the role following a stint as the much more serious Macbeth. Dennis, who describes himself as a character actor, said: "I was used to performing strong, masculine characters, so to get the offer of becoming a pantomime dame was very different for me, but I wanted to challenge myself and the stereotypes surrounding male black actors."

Dennis Ffrench off stage

Dennis as Ding Dong Bell

Choice

His first role as a dame saw him take on the character Hettie Hawkins in an interpretation of the classic Treasure Island.

He said: "When I first performed as a dame, people weren't used to seeing a black male actor on stage, let alone one dressed as a pantomime woman!"

A gifted sportsman, Dennis found himself making a choice between competing as an athlete or heading into the performing arts.

After making the decision to become an actor, he joined the then West Midlands Arts company in Moseley, Birmingham, and was one of the people selected out of 100 to work with them to create a theatre company.

Third Dimension Theatre company was the company that Dennis helped to form in 1986 before going on to be freelance in 1990.

Eventually, he joined ZIP Theatre Company based in Wolverhampton in 1996 and toured extensively around the UK before joining Working Theatre most recently in 2013. Dennis said: "Over the years the audience has grown with me and expects more from me."

The most challenging role Dennis has played over the years was one he took on last year in Working Theatre's production of The Wizard of Oz. "That was hard work because I played three characters," he said.

The industry has changed significantly during Dennis's time in the business.

He said: "When I first started, it was about challenging people's stereotypes about what black male actors could be and what parts they could play. It was impossible to get roles.

"There were many parts that weren't deemed appropriate for black men to play.

"But becoming the dame has given me a unique selling point and enabled me to have a long and successful career."

For tickets to the show, visit www.newhamptonarts.co.uk/beauty-and-the-beast-panto/ or call 01902 572090.

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Cadets see out year with graduation

The Cannock unit of the Staffordshire Police Cadets line up following their recent attestation

MORE than 40 new Staffordshire Police Cadets were sworn in during the final graduation ceremony of the year – with the launch of a new unit scheduled for the spring.

Taking the oath at Rodbaston Hall were 26 cadets from Cannock and 18 Codsall cadets, with 11 leaders being presented with certificates of appreciation.

The Staffordshire Police Cadets regularly take part in community activities, giving them an insight into the work of the force. This includes assisting at local events, offering safety advice or helping with local concerns. The Police Cadets work towards several nationally recognised qualifications including team-working and citizenship.

Preparations are now being made to open a Moorlands branch in April.

It will eventually take the county-wide number of cadets to 300 and is the final area of the county to be represented.

Church metal thefts rise

METAL thefts at places of worship in Staffordshire and the Black Country have trebled in a year.

The problem is creating havoc for communities who are now faced with rising insurance premiums.

There were 18 metal thefts from temples and churches in Dudley, Walsall and Sandwell last year – up from six in the previous year. In Staffordshire, there were seven – up from two in 2016. Police in Wolverhampton say they have received no reports of any thefts.

Roof leading is targeted in most cases, although hot water tanks, bins and even a brass cross were taken.

Mark Silvester, designing out crime manager at West Midlands Police, said: "My team works closely with places of worship, and over the years have given advice to help prevent this type of theft. We offer advice to those who have concerns over theft of metal from their buildings under restoration that are classed as historic buildings and are of a listed status, and there are materials available to replace original lead or cast metal. We will explore all options, taking into account a building's heritage, including strengthening perimeters and surveillance.

"While there isn't one fixed solution, I have a specialist in my team who has worked with a huge number of historic buildings over the years, whose services are called upon.

"Additionally, the force is involved in activity to reduce metal theft, such as tighter controls on the recycling."

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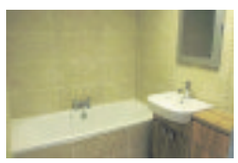

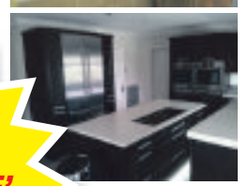

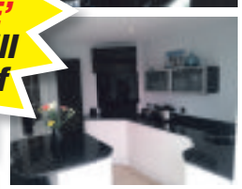

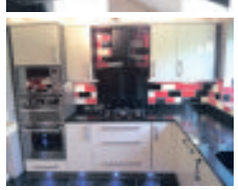

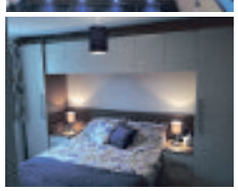

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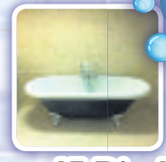

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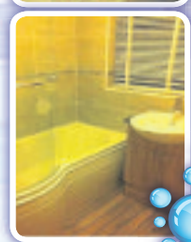

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New role for hospital chief

Richard Beeken

A TOP Staffordshire health chief is leaving the county to help steer a failing Black Country hospital out of troubled waters.

Richard Beeken, chief operating officer at University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust, which runs County Hospital in Stafford, will leave this spring.

He will take up the post of chief executive at Walsall Manor Hospital on March 1. Mr Beeken, aged 45 and from Bishops Wood in South Staffordshire, has previously served as chief executive at Wye Valley NHS Trust where he led the failing organisation out of special measures.

He will face the same task at the Manor after it was confirmed last month it would remain in special measures despite significant improvements being recognised in the last two years.

Jilted husband killed wife then took own life

A SCORNED husband fatally stabbed his wife while she was sleeping after struggling to come to terms with their divorce, an inquest heard. James Barnes plunged a kitchen knife into Amy Barnes's neck as she lay in bed following her hospital night shift.

He fled and set fire to himself at his parents' Streetly home, the hearing in Birmingham was told. Senior Coroner Mrs Louise Hunt recorded a verdict of unlawful killing on Mrs Barnes. The inquest heard she had asked her husband of three years for a divorce after the pair returned from a weekend trip away.

Her 30-year-old husband was in the process of moving his belongings out of their home in Rednal, Birmingham, when he killed her.

Paying tribute to her 32-year-old daughter, Valerie Shimell said: "This has left a huge hole in not only my life, but all the people who knew her. We are all devastated by her loss."

Nursery nurse Mrs Barnes left Birmingham Women's Hospital, where she cared for sick babies, and made her way home at 7.45am on September 25.

Her body was discovered by her mother and sister at the couple's home in Cofton Park Close, Rednal, later that day.

DI Caroline Corfield, of West Midlands Police's homicide team, said Mr Barnes had let himself into the house with a key before using a knife from inside the home to stab his wife.

He locked the door on the way out and then travelled 15 miles to his parents' home in Linforth Drive, where he killed himself.

A small blue notebook uncovered near Mrs Barnes's body detailed their marital woes and was signed by her husband, the court heard.

The handle of the knife was found in a bin bag packed with cuddly toys in the bedroom.

Employees' £1,600 charity Advanta-ge

Advanta and hospice representatives at the cheque handover

CANNOCK-BASED food packaging manufacturer Advanta has wrapped up a month of festive fundraising in aid of Katharine House Hospice.

The fundraising, which included a bake sale, car wash, Christmas jumper day and international cuisine afternoon, brought in more than £1,600 for the Staffordshire charity.

Staff from all departments of the business, in Walkmill Lane, got involved in fundraising activities.

"Our staff were particularly encouraged to support Katharine House Hospice, because the charity helps local people through some of the most difficult circumstances," said Miguel Campos, export sales manager for Advanta.

"Our fundraising activities raised a staggering £1,643 which will support the vital work that Katharine House Hospice provides across Staffordshire.

"During the fundraising month, we've learned a lot from the team at Katharine House about how the charity's staff and volunteers support the patients and their families."

Driver injured

A MOTORIST was seriously injured when his car overturned and landed in a ditch near Cannock Chase. The incident happened at 8.30am on December 23 on Camp Road. He was taken to hospital after being cut free from the vehicle.

Sappers set for meeting

THE Cannock branch of the Royal Engineers Association will hold their January meeting on the second Tuesday of the month – January 9 – starting at 8pm.

All Sappers are welcome to attend the meeting at the Drill Hall (Army Reserve Centre) in Walsall Road, Bridgtown.

For further information about the branch, call the secretary on 01543 423319.

Opinions wanted on revised Local Plan

LICHFIELD District Council is consulting on its revised Local Plan Allocations draft document from January 8 to 19. Following an extensive consultation in the spring of 2017 and the collection of new evidence, the authority has made a number of changes to the document.

This is the second part of the district's Local Plan and covers issues from housing and employment land allocations to reviewing the policies used to determine planning applications. To access the document and to comment online, visit www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/allocations

Comments can also be emailed to developmentplans@lichfielddc.gov.uk or sent in writing to Ashley Baldwin, the council's spatial policy and delivery manager.

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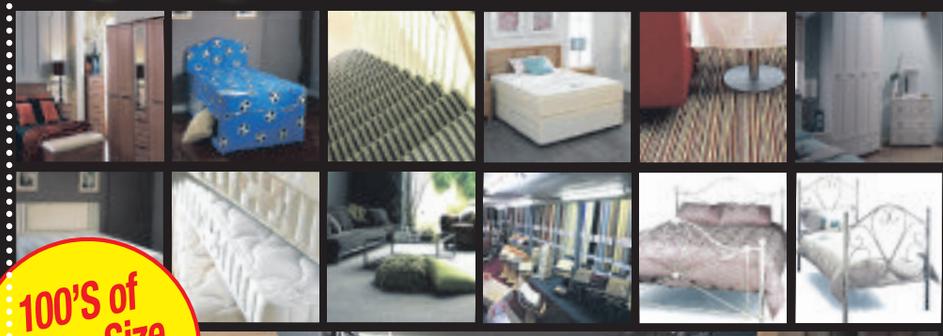

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WALSALL WOOD
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Children develop a love of learning

Commercial feature

Redhill Primary School continues to go from strength to strength. Last year, the school was judged as 'Good' by Ofsted and it enjoyed further success in the progress measures this year, being judged as 'well above average'.

The children are all very proud of their school and positively respond and contribute to its values and ethos. The children are proud of using their ANTLERS (Ambition; Never give up; Teamwork; Love learning; Equality & Fairness; Respect; Service).

Redhill Primary is a one-form entry primary school with its own nursery. The newly built school offers an inspiring and stimulating environment for the children to develop a love of learning. The school benefits from having a state of the art, bright, welcoming, well-equipped and well thought-out facility to support learning. Our curriculum has been designed to raise aspirations and broaden the horizons of our pupils whilst building resilience through experience.

An inspiring environment – the library at Redhill Primary School in Wright's Avenue, Chadsmoor

Children are encouraged to develop their learning skills independently

Visited

To give our children a wealth of experience, we have skilled and motivated adults who are highly committed to fulfilling the school's vision.

We have recently visited the National History Museum in London, the National Space Centre, Birmingham's Think Tank and Warwick Castle.

Outdoor learning is valued and encouraged, with children visiting Cannock Chase and residential stays at Shugborough and Ingestre Arts Centre. Many of our children have the opportunity to participate in our Forest School curriculum too.

We are very proud to have regained our Gold Sports Mark. Sports funding has been used to provide links to healthy lifestyles through clubs and activities such as archery, boxing and 'glow in the dark' dodgeball. We have had recent success in netball, football and cross-country tournaments organised with local schools.

The whole school benefits from a newly designed playground, full of enticing games and activities.

We have also run interventions this term with Progressive Sports to engage our children in physical activity.

To develop Redhill's engagement in the community, our children support local charities by collecting for the Poppy Appeal and Children in Need along with Macmillan and Cancer Research which have been two charities very close to our hearts this year. We have also been supported by the Co-op Local Community Fund.

Money from the members has been donated to the Chase Cooperative Learning Trust and this will fund counselling for some of our children. We are very grateful for this support as it makes a real difference to our young people.

Walsall Football Club have been coming into school to run an ambassador programme which has developed leadership skills in our Year 4 children.

Redhill is delighted to have worked with the Staffordshire Police Commissioner's People Power Fund. The fund has empowered Redhill children, giving them the opportunity to take part in a range of activities during school holidays, by means of a sports camp provided by staff from Walsall FC.

From the very beginning of their learning journey, our children are encouraged to develop their learning skills independently and develop their natural curiosity. Redhill children are encouraged to be confident and proud of their achievements, school and local community.

To quote Ofsted, 'pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain because they are taught to be tolerant and show respect for other people's beliefs. They appreciate the importance of understanding what is right and wrong'.

Redhill Primary School

Inspiring Our Community

Wright's Avenue, West Chadsmoor, Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 5JR
Telephone 01543 227140 or Email office@redhill.staffs.sch.uk

VISITS WELCOME BY APPOINTMENT

No suspect in most crimes

ONLY one suspect is identified for every 10 burglaries that take place in the West Midlands region, statistics have revealed.

A suspect was not found in 90 per cent of burglary cases, while in 71 per cent of robberies, dangerous attackers got away without attracting the suspicion of police.

Figures showed that no suspect was identified in more than half of the 206,000 crimes recorded in 2016-17.

There were 125,712 crimes where no suspect was put forward by officers – 61 per cent of the total. It put West Midlands Police among the poorest performing forces in terms of identifying suspects. Only Greater Manchester Police, City of London Police and the British Transport Police had worse records. In Staffordshire the total was 41 per cent – 31,796 out of 77,619.

It was also revealed that drivers who have their cars stolen in the West Midlands are least likely to see an arrest, with police failing to identify suspects in nine out of 10 cases.

Postie in theft of 600 items from the mail

A POSTIE opened more than 600 items of mail – mainly birthday cards – stealing cash, presents and scratchcards. Dawn Long had been a postwoman, delivering mail around Wolverhampton, for 10 years before contracting a condition that affected her ability to walk.

Her bosses moved her to an office job, repairing mail that had been damaged and sorting through wrongly addressed letters, to accommodate her medical problems but last year a number of envelopes were found opened and discarded in 'the damage room' as the office where Long worked was known to employees.

An investigation was launched and hundreds more items of opened post were recovered, Ms Naomi Dean, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton magistrates.

The security team at the city's Royal Mail centre matched the dates when discarded post was found to the times when Long worked there. Cameras secretly installed in the office filmed her opening packages, and the investigators found in her bag £300 cash, five gift vouchers, 16 pens, three fridge magnets, a keyring and five scratchcards. She immediately owned up to stealing from the centre between December 27, 2016 and April 2, 2017.

Mr Steve Hamblett, defending, said the 45-year-old grandmother suffered from cauda equina syndrome, where discs in her spine collapsed, trapping nerve endings in her spinal cord.

Long, of Deans Road, Wolverhampton, pleaded guilty to opening post while engaged as a postal operator and to theft by employee.

Magistrates sentenced her to a total of 18 weeks' prison suspended for two years. She was also put under an electronically monitored curfew for four months and ordered to pay £425 in compensation and costs.

Jean pulls out stops to play for patients

Music star Jean Martyn with her late husband Bob Ware

A REALITY TV music star visited a hospital to perform on the wards and to hand over money she raised following the death of her husband. Britain's Got Talent favourite Jean Martyn transported her own piano to wards in Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital to play for patients.

She pulled out all the stops as she delivered festive cheer to those in hospital over the holidays. Jean decided to perform on the wards in recognition of the work the staff at the hospital do following the death of her late husband Bob Ware, who died died in October at the age of 77.

She also donated £850 she had raised for the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, which runs New Cross, in memory of Bob. Jean appeared on Britain's Got Talent in June 2011, performing in the live finals – won by Jai McDowell – and enjoying a 14-date UK-wide tour of the programme.

This was just the beginning of a whirlwind journey for Jean, who had previously worked at Cannock Chase High and Huntington Primary schools as a music teacher.

M6 crash charges

ZBIGNIEW Grzabel, 60, of Glebefields Road, Tipton, will appear at Stafford Crown Court on January 15 charged with five counts of causing death by dangerous driving and one of causing serious injury by dangerous driving following a crash on the M6 in Staffordshire in May.

Farm plan submitted

PLANNING applications received by Lichfield District Council include:

Moat Farm, Borough Lane, Longdon – agricultural determination: erection of an agricultural building for storage of animal feed and machinery.

Land adjacent to 4 North Street, Burntwood – erection of a three-bedroom dwelling and associated works.

Police target town centre after raids

CASH, charity boxes and stock have been stolen, and hundreds of pounds worth of damage has been caused, in a spate of business break-ins in Walsall town centre.

West Midlands Police confirmed that there had been 17 similar incidents in December alone.

Detectives have not formally linked the cases but have identified a pattern of company premises being targeted on Mondays and Tuesdays in particular, with multiple incidents in Ablewell Street and Bridge Street.

Police said that in most of the incidents the thieves failed to get into the premises or left empty-handed but there were five where they were successful. Kevin Pitt, police, engagement and consultation officer for Walsall, said: "We will be targeting the area with additional patrols."

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Product	10.5 tog	Price	Was	13.5 tog	Price	Was	15 tog	Price	Was
Single	D5752	£19.99	£32.99	D6094	£23.99	£39.99	D6098	£25.99	£42.99
Double	D5753	£29.99	£42.99	D6095	£33.99	£49.99	D6099	£36.99	£54.99
King	D5754	£32.99	£54.99	D6096	£36.99	£64.99	D6100	£39.99	£69.99
Super King	D5755	£34.99	£64.99	D6097	£39.99	£74.99	D6101	£42.99	£79.99
Pillow Twin Pack	D5785	£19.99	£29.99						

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To add more comfort, you can also purchase a matching feather pillow for just £10.99.

Product	3 inch	Price	Was	5 inch	Price	Was
Single	D2307	£44.99	£59.99	D6555	£64.99	£79.99
Double	D2308	£54.99	£79.99	D6556	£84.99	£99.99
King	D2309	£74.99	£99.99	D6557	£94.99	£119.99
Super King	D5956	£84.99	£109.99	D6558	£104.99	£139.99
Pillow Twin Pack	D2303	£10.99	£24.99			

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Just the ticket for Parrys International at open day

Commercial feature

Multiple award winning coach holiday company – Parrys International, will open its doors to the public on Sunday January 14 for its very popular annual open day.

With the release of the new 2018 brochures, the company is inviting members of the public to view their premises, luxury coaches and meet some of their international hotel and attraction providers.

It also gives the chance for people to gain information from the many staff – drivers and couriers – who will be on hand to help visitors experience and see the luxury coach features that are unique to the company.

They will even be able to book holidays with a number of special offers for the upcoming season.

A German wine queen will be at the day

Parrys are sponsors of Wolves Speedway

Parrys operate their own luxury coaches

There are regular trips to Lake Garda

Sponsors

Hotel representatives will be available from Hilton Worldwide Hotels, Marriott, Holiday Inn, Accor Hotels, Warners and individual hotels from Scotland, Luxembourg, Ireland, Germany, Spain and the Isle of Wight.

Parrys International are also main team sponsors of Wolverhampton Speedway, and their management and a top rider will be in attendance.

Parrys offer over 600 departures for coaching holidays in Britain, Ireland and Europe.

These range from London Theatre Weekends, midweek breaks in Cornwall to 12 day holidays featuring Italy's Lake Garda.

Continental holidays also include Germany, the Costa Brava in Spain, Andorra, the imperial Cities of Prague, Budapest and Vienna, and a 15-day Italian highlights tour.

The company have also introduced a huge choice of new day excursions with departures for its many destinations operating throughout the year.

The open Day runs from 10am until 3pm and is hosted at their garage and offices in Landywood Green, Cheslyn Hay.

More information from the company can be obtained by calling 01922 414576.

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South Staffordshire College

VISIT OUR OPEN EVENTS
24th - 27th January

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Let us make 2018 your best year yet

Commercial feature

GET the new year off to the best possible start with an exciting range of courses starting this January at South Staffordshire College.

Ideal for school leavers who feel they chose the wrong route in September and adults who want to enhance their career prospects or explore something new, the courses give learners the chance to gain recognised qualifications, new skills and an accelerated route into careers, further learning or an apprenticeship.

Vocational studies

Available to those aged 16 plus at the college's campuses in Tamworth and Lichfield, these courses combine related subjects together allowing you to specialise later. Available in business, IT and digital media; creative industries such as film, art and performance; sport, travel and public services and electrical installation and engineering, courses can be completed in six months.

Fast track courses

Fast track courses are available to those aged 16 and over and can be completed by the end of June allowing you to progress to the next level quickly. up wot work on construction, plumbing, horticulture, horse care, dog grooming, floristry, hair and beauty and care.

Pathways courses

At Rodbaston and Tamworth, our pathways into education, apprenticeships and training route is available to learners who would like to tailor their experience by blending smaller elements of different subjects together. You may want to try motor vehicle, construction, care or hair and beauty courses. Whatever you choose, you will work alongside a course tutor to develop an individual programme tailored to your needs. All college courses are free for 16-19 year olds. Adults may also be eligible to study for free depending on their previous qualifications and employment status.

Team up to work on improving practical skills

Choose from the many courses which include animal care

Adult leisure courses

Those aged 19 plus can choose from an impressive range of part-time and short courses exclusively for adults. From counselling, foreign languages and retail knowledge to floristry, car maintenance and bookkeeping, these courses are perfect for those who want to gain skills for that next promotion or find a new hobby. Many of these courses are delivered in the evening so fit in perfectly with existing commitments.

Enrol on a part-time course online at www.southstaffs.ac.uk/community-education

Distance learning

If you want even more flexibility, adults aged 19 and over can also study in their own time by enrolling on one of the free online distance learning courses such as Understanding Nutrition, Customer Services, Equality and Diversity, Team Leading, Principles of Business Administration and many more. Visit www.southstaffs.ac.uk/distance-learning

Apprenticeships

Remember our apprenticeships recruit all year round and we have a wide range of opportunities available. All vacancies are published on our website. www.southstaffs.ac.uk/apprenticeships. Ready to kick-start the new year? Getting started is easy; sign up online in just 25 seconds.

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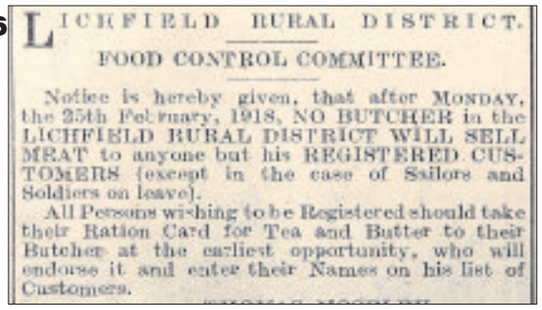


LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT.

FOOD CONTROL COMMITTEE.

Notice is hereby given, that after MONDAY, the 25th February, 1918, NO BUTCHER in the LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT WILL SELL MEAT to anyone but his REGISTERED CUSTOMERS (except in the case of Sailors and Soldiers on leave).

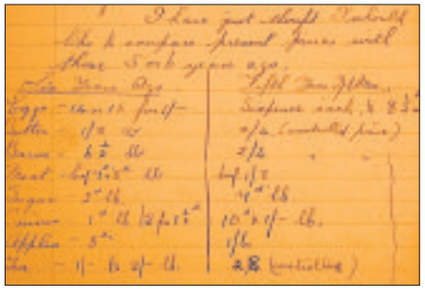
All Persons wishing to be Registered should take their Ration Card for Tea and Butter to their Butcher at the earliest opportunity, who will endorse it and enter their Names on his list of Customers.

Rationing - food control committee notice from Lichfield

Karen Hunt, Archives Service volunteer Irene Moir and Gill Heath

Image showing the home front

A team of volunteers recruited to help research book



Edith Birchall's note in her diary on rising food prices

How life went on while conflict raged abroad

VOLUNTEERS have helped research a new book which reveals some intriguing facts about the Staffordshire home front during the First World War.

Staffordshire's War contains personal accounts of how life in Staffordshire carried on while the conflict raged abroad.

While the Tommies battled in the trenches on the Western Front, people were fighting their own battles on the home front to feed their families and help keep the war effort going.

The war affected everyone. Edith Birchall, a young teacher, wrote in her diary of the novel experience of a Zeppelin raid on Staffordshire, while Ellen South collected 39 tons of waste paper for war funds.

Daily life became an increasing challenge for all. Families had to find a way to cope without their breadwinners. These included men in the Army and Navy but also interned 'enemy aliens' such as Bert Kemper – one of a handful of Germans from Tamworth interned in 1915. And, in Burton, a group of conscientious objectors like Edwin Wheeldon were sent to prison for their beliefs.

Others set aside their businesses for the duration of the war, like Albert Blizzard, a brick and tile manufacturer, who became the principal recruiter for the North Staffordshire regiments.

MEMORY LANE

By David Banner

Diaries

The daily lives of all these ordinary people and their families were changed by the Great War even though they never left Britain.

Now, 100 years on, eye witness accounts, diaries, letters and recently discovered official military tribunal papers have been pulled together for the first time, revealing the truth about the Staffordshire home front.

Councillor Gill Heath, cabinet member for communities on Staffordshire County Council, who leads on the county's Great War commemorations, said: "This is a remarkable collection of personal accounts that gives us a really valuable insight about life on the home front in Staffordshire during the First World War.

"It shows us how ordinary people managed to survive in a new wartime economy which impinged on every aspect of their daily lives."

This was the first time that civilians were a crucial part of a new kind of warfare. Even though men, women and children in Staffordshire were far from the guns, their success in forming a resilient home front could make the difference between winning and losing the war.

Professor Karen Hunt, author of Staffordshire's War, said: "For the first time we have a local picture of what it was like to live through a war which in the end touched every home in the country."

Cpl Albert Blizzard set aside his business during war

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New pathway for Sixth Form

Walton High School sixth form students take a break

From September 2018, Walton High School Sixth Form will be offering a new Vocational Pathway for Post 16 students.

This exciting development is in response to requests from students who are keen to be part of Walton's sixth form and are looking for the opportunity to study a wider range of courses. The selection of courses on offer includes:

- Cambridge Technical Level 3 Introductory Diploma in Information Technology
- Diploma in Music and Music Technology Level 3 BTEC
- Food Science and Nutrition Level 3 Diploma
- Forensic and Criminology Level 3 Double BTEC
- Marketing Level 3 BTEC
- Mathematical Studies Level 3
- Sport Level 3 Double BTEC
- Fashion and Textiles A-Level
- Film Studies A-Level
- Media Studies A-Level
- Photography A-Level

The entry requirement for the vocational pathway is five Grade 4s or above at GCSE to include Grade 4 in English and mathematics.

These courses will run in conjunction with Walton's Academic A-Level Pathway and the entry requirement for this is five Grade 5s or above at GCSE to include Grade 5 in English and mathematics.

Students can choose to study subjects from both offerings, provided they meet the entry criteria. Full course details and an application form can be found on the school website.

If you want to be part of Walton's sixth form and are looking for the opportunity to study a wider range of courses, come along to the open evening on Tuesday, January 9 to learn more.

Walton High School
SIXTH FORM
OPEN EVENING

TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2018

7PM - 9PM

WALTON MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

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For admissions contact Mrs J Wellings
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Kingsize WAS £949 NOW ONLY £649

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Including Pocket Sprung Various Colours
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2 Drawer Bed Double or 3/4
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Orthopedic 2 Drawer Bed
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Open 7 days a week, Mon-Sat: 9.00am - 5.30pm, Sunday: 10.00am - 4.00pm
01543 529146

Sutton Coldfield Showroom
51 Birmingham Road, Sutton Coldfield B72 1QF (By the Empire Cinema)
Open 7 days a week, Mon - Sat: 9.30am - 5.30pm Sunday: 11.00am - 4.00pm
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WWW.COMFORTBEDS.CO.UK • INFO@COMFORTBEDS.CO.UK

New Year Lifestyle

A special Chronicle feature to welcome in 2018

Discover the Andes with Sol super oils

For those looking to add an extra element of health to their diet, look no further as Andean Sol, the premium superfood brand, has launched an innovative range of Chia Oils this month.

By working closely with farmers in the Andean region of South America, Andean Sol brings the essence of the mountains to the UK with the creation of its Olive and Chia Oil and Extra Virgin Chia Oil.

A world first, the Olive and Chia Oil is cold pressed to maximise flavour, adding life to any dish, whether it's drizzled, dipped or doused over food.

Available in 250ml bottles with a RRP of £8.99, the nutritious oil brings together the best of both worlds, the sublime taste of the highest quality olive oil blended with the impressive plant based Omega-3 power of cold pressed chia oil.

The result is a rich peppery oil that will add depth to any dish.

Alongside this ground-breaking new condiment, Andean Sol has also launched a pure Extra Virgin Chia Oil.

Made from the finest chia seeds grown in the warm and sunny foothills of the Andes Mountains, the Extra Virgin Chia Oil is deliciously light and contains approximately 64 per cent of plant powered Omega-3 fatty acids. With a light nutty flavour it is the ideal nutritious salad dressing.

Available in 100ml bottles with a RRP of £9.99, you can experience the true taste of the Andes with every drop.

Ever wondered where your food really comes from?

Well now you can know, by entering in the unique code found on the back of Andean Sol packs onto their website, you can learn about the process, people and farm who worked hard to create the new oil range.

The Andean Sol range is available now on Ocado.

Enjoy beautiful outdoors while getting healthier

It's a brand new year, and for many of us now is the time to get fitter and healthier – and being active needn't cost you money.

Enjoying the great outdoors is part of what makes living in Shropshire and Mid Wales so wonderful.

We are blessed with some of the most beautiful countryside in the UK, and as we come into a new year, there has never been a better time to enjoy it with your family.

For a lovely family walk while the weather is still crisp, wrap up warm and take in the landscape of Attingham Park. With walking routes from one to three miles throughout the park, you'll find somewhere new to explore every time you visit. Visitors can enjoy beautiful vistas across the Shropshire Hills, and gorgeous photo opportunities in abundance.

Guests of the park during January and February can also take the opportunity to get closer to its herd of fallow deer and watch them be fed by the wardens.

Attingham Park boasts around 200 fallow deer, and during the colder months they need supplement feed to keep them strong and healthy. It is a long tradition at Attingham to feed the deer; the eighth Lord Berwick loved his fallow deer herd so much he would often feed them himself. Visitors to the park can pick up a map of walks from its reception, and also download these from the website at www.nationaltrust.org.uk

The cold can be harsh on the Long Mynd, though a family walk there in the early months of the year can be a wonderful opportunity to see a lot of wildlife. Part of the Long Mynd, High Park is better for birds in winter than any other time of year, due to the chance of seeing a large flock of Golden Plover. The size of the flock varies from year to year, but has reached 350. The birds feed on the short wet vegetation anywhere around the area where the road up from High Park crosses onto National Trust land.

Ponies

Raven and Buzzard may be seen here at this time of year as well, and whatever the time of year there is always a good chance of spotting the ponies.

If snow lies on the ground or after rain when the paths are muddy, check for footprints and other tracks and signs of mammals and birds. Lots of fun can be had working out what activity has taken place in the early hours, with foxes and badgers using many of the footpaths more than human visitors have!

Walking can be both invigorating and relaxing, though if you are looking to enjoy the outdoors with a bit more of a twist, you may want to try your hand at Geocaching.

This high-tech take on a treasure hunt involves participants using a GPS receiver to find caches that other people have hidden. This global phenomenon began in the USA in 2000 when the first cache was hidden. Today there are close to three million hidden all over the world. A cache itself typically consists of a box containing a log book and and number of low value 'treasures'. Participants visit the Geocashing website to acquire the rough location of caches in their area and clues to help them find them.

The idea is that when you find a cache, you sign the log book, take a treasure for your reward and replace this with something for the next lucky finder. There are a number of caches hidden across our region and searching for them can be a really fun and different way of enjoying the Shropshire countryside. For information and to get started, visit. www.geocaching.co.uk

For many of us, taking in the country air goes hand-in-hand with spending time with our canine companions.

For any dog lovers looking to enjoy the great outdoors and get fit at the same, Canicross may be just the new hobby you were looking for. Canicross is essentially the sport of running off-road with a dog. Human participants wear a waistbelt which attaches via a two-metre bungee line to a padded dog harness. It can be a fantastic way to keep you and your dog in good shape, whilst enjoying the countryside together.

This can be a great activity to either enjoy with just you and your dog or in one of the many organised clubs that are passionate about the sport. Check online for events and groups that can help you and your faithful pal enjoy 2018 in a whole new and healthy way.

HEALTH: Bring your mind and diet together

Reformed yo-yo dieter Lisa Beasley is on a mission: To get us to ditch diets for good, and focus on pursuing a healthy relationship with food and eating – and, in effect, ourselves – instead.

As somebody who 'spent years feeling uncomfortable' in her own body, Lisa is all too familiar with the cycle of not only fluctuating weight that comes from swinging between dieting and overeating – but the guilt, fragile self-esteem and shame entangled with it too.

Since transforming her own relationship with food, she's founded My Body Positive and runs workshops and eight-week courses (Lisa's a licensed facilitator of Dr Michelle May's award-winning 'Am I Hungry?' programme), to help others do the same.

Weight-loss is not the focus, but she acknowledges that often, people who struggle with their relationship with food might want to lose weight.

She firmly believes, though, that being trapped in negative mindsets – like thinking you're only 'worthy' and can only fully enjoy life if you're slim; messages we're bombarded with – is usually one of the things driving us to overeat.

She's all about unlocking these cycles and helping people feel better about themselves, even if they don't reach that 'goal' weight.

Want to know Lisa's secret? It all comes down to mindful eating, which, hopefully, will help you feel happy in your skin – no matter the number on your jeans label.

Moment

Here, Lisa shares some mindful eating practices that could transform the way you eat:

● Whenever you reach for food, just take a moment to check in with what you're actually feeling "Do you have a physical feeling of hunger in your stomach?

"Because if you don't, it could be that you are eating for other reasons. That's OK by the way – lots of us do that – just becoming aware of this is a necessary first step."

Paying attention to what you are eating makes food so much more satisfying. "We've all sat in front of the TV before and got through a whole packet of chocolate without hardly noticing.

"Bringing yourself into the moment to pay attention to the flavours, texture and even temperature of your food will help you to feel satisfied much sooner."

● Listen to your body

"Learning to listen to yourself more carefully and work out what food you are really hungry for can completely change what you eat. It may sound radical, but you can actually eat what you truly want and need. And it won't just be cake, I promise!"

● Let go of diet thinking

"This is really important. If you spend your time restricting what you eat, or not allowing yourself to have what you want, there will come a time when you rebound and go back to what you were doing before."

Eat with the intention of feeling better than when you started. "This is about feeling good, not being good!"

For more information visit mybodypositive.co.uk

Be enchanted by the magical style and grandeur of the striking Grade II listed hall, set amongst 200 acres of beautiful Staffordshire countryside - a truly unique venue for fairytale weddings and romantic memories.

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You can rest assured with Walsall Beds

Some of the wide variety of beds and furniture on offer

Major brand names like Silent Night, Hypnos, Rest Assured and Hestia are on display

There is also a large range of children's beds, bunk beds and high sleepers

WALSALL Beds and Furniture was started by husband and wife team John and Judy Fox in 1989 at Freer Street in Walsall, situated above Walsall Carpets.

It gave John and Judy the idea to name their shop Walsall Beds.

The shop went from strength to strength and within just two years, the couple decided to expand to larger premises, and settled on the old Co-Op building in Bridge Street,

Commercial feature

Walsall. With the extra space John and Judy were able to expand and double their bed range and furniture range giving customers a far better increased range of beds and furniture.

However, after nine years the redevelopment in the area caused trade to dwindle and they agreed it was time for another move. They looked at various options and locations and finally found premises in Cannock so in the year 2000 Walsall Beds moved to their new and current premises based at Point South, Virage Park, Walsall Rd, Cannock.

Wardrobes

The postcode for their base is WS11 3NH. There is a large free car park along with a variety of shops including the recently opened Range.

They now have the facilities to show over 40 beds on display including major brand names like Silent Night, Hypnos, Rest Assured and Hestia to small local manufacturers. Spread over two floors they also stock children's beds, bunk beds and high sleepers.

They have a wide selection of wardrobes, bedroom fitments, bedside cabinets etc, in fact everything you need to complete your stylish comfortable bedroom.

With over 20 years experience they offer value for money beds along with an excellent customer service.

They strongly believe that they are big enough to cope but small enough to care.

Open seven days a week, so why don't you pop in and check them out. You won't be disappointed.

WALSALL BEDS
CANNOCK

4'6" Silentnight 2 drawer set
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Now **£399**
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ONLY **£299**
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Slide door wardrobes and bedroom furniture to fit all sizes on display in our showroom.

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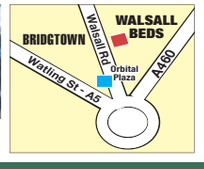

Hestia · rauch · Sealy · Sealy Posturepedic · Silentnight · Silentnight Geltex

WALSALL BEDS
CANNOCK

Tel: 01543 573851
Point South, Virage Park Bridgtown, Cannock
Mon-Sat 9.00 - 5.00 | Sun 11.00 - 4.00

www.walsallbeds.com

Find the perfect fireplace for your home with expert advice

Commercial feature

NORTON CANES Fireplace Factory has been supplying quality fireplaces and surrounds in Cannock and the wider Midlands area since 2003.

It stocks an excellent range of fireplaces, including gas fires, electric fires, fuel fires, multi-fuel burners and faux fuel fires, with fireplace surrounds available from the very traditional wood burning stove to the modern and contemporary ceramic surrounds, and also fireplace accessories.

It prides its business on providing fireplace packages that are suitable for all budgets, so if you're looking to replace an existing fireplace or surround you're in safe hands!

Reputation

The company has built a reputation locally on delivering the most in-demand fireplaces products, including made-to-measure marble and stone surrounds.

If there is a specific model or manufacturer you're looking for, the staff will also endeavour to source these if it is not something they already supply.

The newly-refurbished and improved showroom has more than 100 top brand fireplaces and surrounds on display, with a selection of live displays so you can see the fireplaces in action.

And the company is confident it will find you a perfect fireplace to match your home!

And apart from all the above Norton Canes Fireplace Factory is now offering one of its best offers EVER. Throughout January it is offering £100 off ANY fireplace and fire when they are purchased together and is also throwing in FREE spotlights into any marble or wood fireplace (worth £99).

So many different designs on show to choose from

Sales manager Phil said:"We have been working hard throughout December to have the showroom looking the best it's ever looked.

"So we wanted to give away a top saving to all our customers".

As well as this great offer it is are also selling off some of its ex-display showroom models so there will be many bargains in store to suit all there customers needs.

Be sure to pop along. Sale starts 10am Tuesday, January 2 or visit www.nortoncanesfireplacefactory.co.uk

NORTON
CANES FIREPLACE FACTORY

SALE NOW ON !

EX-DISPLAY FIREPLACES MUST GO!!
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www.boydshairdesign.co.uk

Chase Terrace Salon 01543 677711 Hednesford Salon 01543 877914

Shop Local Support Your Local Business

Owl Barn Interiors

Owl Barn Interiors sells reclaimed furniture, antiques and new furniture all within 2500 sq. ft. of showrooms just outside Rugeley in Staffordshire. We stock furniture in different woods and finishes including pine, mahogany and oak pieces, as well as painted furniture finished in Farrow & Ball paint. We are proud to be stockists of Farrow & Ball paint and wallpaper as well as Emma Bridgewater china and Sophie Allport homewares, we also have a small selection of Lancaster & Gibbings handmade Pewter gifts and cards. We have a wide range of interior accessories in stock to complement your existing furniture; this includes a variety of limited edition artwork and pictures, as well as lamps, glassware, pottery, blankets, ironwork, clocks and mirrors.To give your home atmosphere, we have a range of candles including Woodwick, Village Candles and Wooden Sun, in a variety of fragrances. To relax we have a small coffee shop selling handmade cakes, cookies, crisps and drinks. We are based at the site of Cawarden Brick & Tile Company, a reclamation yard which has been established for over 25 years, and is situated in the beautiful countryside. We are Open: Monday: 10-5, Tuesday: Closed, Wednesday - Friday: 9-5, Saturday: 9:30-4

Image

Image is based on Hednesford high street and is a salon specialising in beauty & tanning. Established In 2008 we have a small team offering years of experience in the industry. We aim to deliver professional yet personal treatments. We pride ourselves on working with high end brands such as OPI , Fake Bake & Nouveau.
As well as beauty treatments we also offer stand up tanning beds for that all year round glow. Free parking available. For all enquiries contact us on 01543 879865

Acton Motors

We are a small family run Garage business in Lichfield Staffordshire. We offer Servicing, Mechanical Repairs and MOT Testing.
Servicing & Repairs. We carry out servicing and repairs to most makes of cars and light commercial vehicles. We carry a range of genuine Ford and Vauxhall service items and use a variety of main dealers for genuine parts. Where more cost effective we us OE quality replacement parts from local factors. We also carry up to date diagnostic equipment to help solve ECU and ABS faults. We pride ourselves in offering our customers value for money solutions to keep their vehicles running as they should. Unlike many national franchise operations we do not replace parts unnecessarily.

Boyds

We bring to the area professional hairdressing and beauty (beauty at Chase Terrace Only) within 2 salons, one located in Burntwood and the second based on the high street in Hednesford. We have been established for nearly Five years at Hednesford now.
Both salons have up to date technology teamed with stylish furnishings, colour dispensary bars and client comfy backwashes. All of this creates a great atmosphere for our clients to relax and feel assured that they are in the hands of the professionals in the hair industry.
We offer fully trained and experienced stylist at 5 levels, along with master colour expert colour technicians. All our staff are friendly and passionate about what they do. We also offer client loyalty points and discounts such as recommend a friend, under 16 and students on a Monday to Friday and senior citizens on a Monday to Wednesday. You can also pop in and arrange a free colour consultation with one of our master colour experts.
We are open 6 days a week, Monday (Hednesford Closed)Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am till 5.30pm, Saturday 8.30am till 4.30pm and a late night on Thursday, from 9am till 8pm at Hednesford and Wednesday 9am till 7.30pm, Thursday 9am till 8.30pm and Friday 9am till 7.30pm at Chase Terrace.
We pride ourselves on our excellent customer service and very high standard of hairdressing. We look forward to seeing.
Check out our facebook page and website for special offers - www.boydshairdesign.co.uk

Simple Heating Solutions

Simple heating solutions (SHS) have been trading since 2007, when we became a distributor for elti heating of East Yorkshire. After a while we became independent and began importing directly from the manufacturers thus enabling us to become more competitive than previously.
The business is run by Martin Robertson, from Rugeley, Staffordshire. All of our heaters are manufactured in Germany by a family run business that have been in the heating business since 1946.
As you would expect from any German manufacturer, all of the products are made to a very high standard, and with such a long track record you can be sure that the reliability of the heaters is second to none.

Shawzs 4 Paws

Pampering your Pooch
Shawz for Paws are a professional and experienced dog groomer, established in Cannock in2014, offering your four legged friend a range of services from a simple bath and dry to a complete makeover and are now offering hand stripping.
At Shawz 4 Paws they are dedicated to providing the highest quality service and love your dog as much as you do; they provide a professional service in a relaxing environment. If your long â€" coated Shihtzu is a mess of tangles, your Schnauzer a dishevelled mess of stray wiry hair or your Bichon Frise is no longer white the Tony, the head groomer and manager will have your canine companion looking good and smelling great.
Tony has over nine years experience grooming. He is fully trained in a range of grooming techniques.
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3 Market Street, Hednesford

01543 879865

Ever-changing company offers customers the latest designs

Commercial feature

Fireplace & Plaster Elegance is an established family-run business supplying plasterware and high-quality fires and fireplaces since 1986.

Located in Bridgtown, Cannock, our showroom offers a relaxed warm and friendly environment with a comprehensive range of plasterware, fires and fireplaces on display, where we are always at hand to offer professional advice and a wealth of knowledge spanning over four decades and two generations, helping you to create Fireplace & Plaster Elegance for your living space.

Originally founded to manufacture and supply plaster fireplaces and ornate plasterware to the local area, the business rapidly expanded, supplying a wide range of fireplace styles and materials and plasterware nationwide.

This continues today with us taking great pleasure and extreme pride in being involved in award-winning building developments year after year, while also continuing to collect nominations and awards for excellence for our part in renovating buildings from churches and hotels to heritage listed stately homes.

To this day Fireplace & Plaster Elegance continues to evolve into an ever-changing company offering our customers the latest designs, whether your fireplace requirements are traditional or contemporary.

We have long since offered a bespoke fireplace manufacturing service where our customers can really tailor their fireplace ideas to suit their fireplace needs, or we can simply adjust our fireplace display designs to the sizes and dimensions that suit their requirements.

The business has rapidly expanded, supplying a wide range of styles and materials

At Fireplace & Plaster Elegance we continue as always to work with the leading manufacturers in wood, marble and stone fireplace design, gas and electric fires and stoves, to always endeavour to supply our customers with the latest designs and cutting-edge products at the most competitive prices from the market's leading brands.

Still today, over 30 years on, we still take exceptional pride in our quality of work and our excellent customer service. Every customer is unique, every customer has different requirements, and we as a family still want our customers to experience a relaxed service, to make their choices as easy as we possibly can.

All of our teams of installers are qualified engineers in the required fields. Whether you're looking for a Gas Safe or HETAS installation, we have the team for the product, offering the complete fitting services, not forgetting our ever increasing range of plasterware which, of course, is where it all began.

Brothers are humbled by support for funeral firm

Commercial feature

'Since we opened our funeral home in Bridgtown, the fact that so many families have chosen us to support them through their time of loss has been humbling. It has been an incredibly busy month', said Jack O'Malley.

Jack, a graduate from the University of Birmingham, has worked in the funeral industry since the age of 16. He has long looked forward to opening his own funeral service.

Now, working alongside his older brother Luke, and with the help of his parents Tony and Linda, O'Malley Family Funerals is enabling him to provide a funeral business that is truly personal and distinctive.

Compassion

"With the funeral industry increasingly being dominated by large corporate firms and 'get-rich-quick' entrepreneurs, I wanted to ensure that families did not have to choose between professionalism, compassion and affordability.

"I honestly believe that O'Malley Family Funerals provides an unbeatable service in all three of these areas."

What families appreciate is the personal approach shown by Jack and Luke. The brothers take time to build a relationship with all those they serve. They get to know both about the bereaved and about the lives and personalities of their loved ones.

Busy time for Jack O'Malley and his brother Luke

"It is wonderful just how many families I have served in the past, and now in Cannock, keep in touch," said Jack.

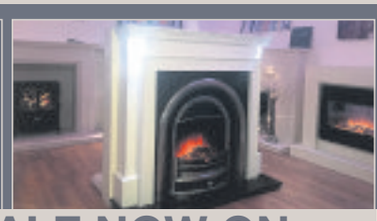
"They love me to visit them from time to time for a chat and cup of tea."

O'Malley Family Funerals operate from their beautifully furnished funeral home on North Street in Bridgtown.

Jack and Luke are contactable day and night on 01543 529813.

Visit their website www.omalleyfunerals.co.uk for information on their services and all-inclusive price packages.

Fireplace Elegance
EST FAMILY BUSINESS SINCE 1986



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O'Malley Family Funerals
A truly personal service

"I don't know how I would have got through the last couple of weeks without your knowledge and compassion..."

A family we cared for in October 2017.

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We offer a uniquely personal service and operate an all-inclusive pricing policy with no hidden charges. This gives families peace of mind and allows us to focus on what really matters - caring for loved-ones.

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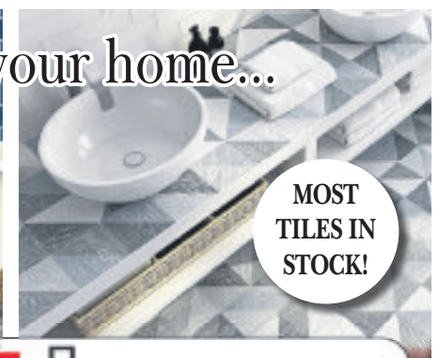

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REVIEWS

Max thrills with the Firestarters

The Prodigy, Wolverhampton Civic Hall

ELECTRO giants The Prodigy put on an incredible show with thunderous bass, tremendous energy and a phenomenal lights show.

Despite having been in the industry for 27 years, the Essex band gave a stellar performance packed with hit after infectious hit, barely coming up for air between songs.

The city centre venue was heaving with fans, from young teens to 40-something ravers, many of whom donned fluorescent clothing and glow sticks.

The crowd on the floor was a sea of bodies, each of them jumping and dancing to the array of fan favourites blasted out by the band. With the group playing beneath mesmerising lighting made up of dozens of spotlights, and singing into UV microphones, it was truly a sight to behold.

Songs performed by the band spanned their highly successful career, from Nineties hits Firestarter, Breathe and Smack My B**** Up, through to Noughties numbers such as Run With The Wolves.

Keith Palmer, AKA Maxim, was without doubt the star of the show. The 50-year-old icon's energy was unwavering throughout, as were his vocals and powerful stage presence.

Although it was hardly needed, Maxim continuously revved up the crowd, demanding shouts and jumps at every turn. "I can't hear you," he bellowed. "Is this Wolverhampton or what?"

And the audience happily obliged, as they danced to an array of thumping tunes, such as Omen, Voodoo People, Their Law and Take Me To The Hospital. A true stand-out moment for the Civic and one of the most thrilling nights out in Wolverhampton I've had in a long time.

KIRSTEN RAWLINS

Bev really steals show to make it a fabulous Knight

Singer Beverley Knight with Ugly Sisters Ceri Dupree, right, and David Dale

Matt Slack and Suzanne Shaw

Cinderella, Birmingham Hippodrome

IF you spot a fairytale coach winging its way across the skies over the West Midlands during the next few weeks, you can be sure that it's heading to Birmingham.

The Hippodrome is known for doing it bigger and better than anywhere else and this year is no exception, as Qdos Entertainment deliver on every level, providing stunning scenery, stars, sumptuous costumes and the best special effects in the business, to ensure the venue maintains its place at the top of the panto Christmas tree.

Its stellar cast includes the multi-talented soul diva, radio presenter, musical theatre actress, and now one third of newly formed trio Leading Ladies, Wolverhampton-born and bred Beverley Knight; Prince of the Strictly ballroom, the charismatic Danny Mac; and, of course, Birmingham's favourite panto comedian, the incomparable Matt Slack, who returns to the city for the fifth year running due to unprecedented demand.

It's two and half hours of laugh out loud comedy, fun and frolics. The staging and choreography are second to none. The adult humour does tip the balance very slightly but is never offensive, while the traditional silliness and cringeworthy jokes reign supreme.

This is Beverley's first voyage into pantoland and she certainly is a 'Fabulous Fairy' completely stealing the limelight from the off, as her famous golden tones ring out as she flies high above the audience on a giant butterfly to open the show.

Fairy Godmother Bev takes everything in her stride, including the ad-libs and mischief making of panto royalty, The Grumbleweeds, whose well worn but classic comedy she more than matches, holding her own while they create mayhem.

The beautiful and talented Suzanne Shaw is the perfect Cinders, while Ceri Dupree and David Dale are suitably hideous as the Ugly Sisters. Producer/director Michael Harrison has created an unmissable panto masterpiece. It runs until January 28.

ALISON NORTON

Boys are back in town for pop classics

Jersey Boys, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE familiar rags to riches story about a group formed by friends who grow apart is given a 'The Sopranos'-like twist in this all-conquering jukebox musical based on the story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

When they started in New Jersey in the early '60s the gang of Italian-American neighbourhood pals were more successful at getting criminal records than hit records.

That past was to catch up with them and split the band when they had become one of the most popular groups in America.

That success, based largely on Bob Gaudio's songwriting genius and Valli's helium vocals, was not with the Woodstock generation but with the people who worked on production lines or flipped burgers – people like them.

Filled to the brim with classic Four Seasons songs, from Sherry to Rag Doll, Walk Like A Man to Who Loves You?, this is a show as smart as the quartet's suits and as slick as their synchronised moves.

It also cleverly staged, often switching the perspective to give a back stage view.

The language pulls no punches and the show is fast-paced with lots of humour to balance the drama and tragedy. Ultimately it depends on the four young men in the spotlight and in this production they are exceptional – Michael Watson is totally believable as the ambitious Valli, delivering that famous falsetto but also able to croon; Simon Bailey is the crooked Tommy Devito; Declan Egan the shy but brilliant Gaudio; and Lewis Griffiths the unassuming Nick Massi.

Their sensational sound prompted a standing – and dancing – ovation from the Birmingham audience.

Jersey Boys continues at the Alex until January 6 and visits Wolverhampton Grand from August 28 to September 6.

LEON BURAKOWSKI

The Ticket

SCOTT'S MORE THAN A PASSING STRANGER

INSIDE

THEATRE + MUSIC + TV GUIDE + PUZZLES

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The simple life for Scott's new sound

Wolverhampton's Ivor Novello Award-winning singer Scott Matthews is planning a busy 2018 with the release of his new album, The Great Untold.

The singer/songwriter plans to release the record in April with a tour following in May. It will include a date at Birmingham's St Paul's Church on May 20.

The record is Scott's simplest to date. For the first time in his five-album career, there's no band, no lavish production – just Scott. It is a man, a guitar and a song. It sounds simple, doesn't it? And it is.

Scott's new record, The Great Untold, is a career-defining masterpiece. The sixth studio album by the Ivor Novello Award-winning singer-songwriter is the one that many have craved: it is a masterclass in honesty, instinct and reflection.

A largely acoustic recording, Scott's sublime new record features sparse production. Recorded at home and in acoustically-resonant rural churches, instrumentation has been jettisoned. His 10-song cycle is the sound of a man comfortable in his own skin, putting his neck on the line with a collection of otherworldly songs.

"I'm still working on it but it's coming together and the songs are there. The record will be out in spring. I've always wanted to record a sparse, stripped back record and finally the time felt right to do that."

The ghosts of Paul Simon, Tim Buckley, Nick Drake and John Martyn loom large on a collection that ranks alongside work by some of the world's great singer-songwriters. On his sixth record, Scott has created songs that are breathtaking in their beauty and audacious in their simplicity.

The absence of drums, bass, cello and flute on The Great Untold, however, should not infer that it lacks depth. Far from it. The richness in Scott's new work comes from subtle playing and mellifluous melodies. He has improved again. He has become a master of his craft; a man who can play like Bert Jansch, sing like an angel and write songs that Joni Mitchell might admire.

Scott has been fine-tuning his sixth studio album

REFINED

In many ways, The Great Untold is the start of a new era for Scott. Since his debut album, Passing Stranger, in 2006, the Wolverhampton-born star of bluesy acoustica has refined his craft. Writing deft and sensitive songs during a trajectory that begin with the ethereal Elusive, The Great Untold marks a new beginning.

The first great arc of his career was completed with his Home duology; a stunning pair of records that reflected on his journey thus far. The Great Untold is the sound of a man moving on. Scott is recently married, soon-to-experience fatherhood and has new hopes and fears, new stories to tell. "After Home Part 2 was finished, I was looking to move forward by marrying harmony with my experiences since the last record. The plan to write an acoustic record has always been there. I take a while over the songs. But in recent years, I've been keen to release more records. So I'm setting myself deadlines and working more quickly. Robert Plant once told me I ought to do more – and I took his advice."

Scott has tested himself as a songwriter. The absence of a band means he is vulnerable and exposed. But, in many ways, it was ever thus. He started as a soloist and is ready to fly alone. It opens new possibilities, a different type of challenge. "It takes me out of my comfort zone and has made me test myself. I've pared it down to guitar and vocals. At the beginning, there was nobody else. It's time to surprise myself. It's time to go back to my own world. I've gone full circle.

"This is how it all began. I would write at home, in Wolverhampton, and I'm doing that again now."

Lyrically, The Great Untold is a work with poetic intent. "It's a collection of songs that lots of people will relate to. It's a real mood-shift of a record. The songs always start from a personal angle, but listeners will hear them in different ways. When I'm writing, I'm almost hearing voices from The Masters and thinking: 'Would they approve?'" The point is to make a connection.

"I want to move somebody with the power of moods and music. It's very powerful stuff."

It is in the right hands. And that's an apposite description for The Great Untold. It is a record written by a man at the peak of his powers, by a musician able to channel great beauty in songs that reveal the most human of truths.

> *It's a collection of songs that lots of people will relate to*

Scott remains proud of his Black Country heritage and The Great Untold is a record rooted in the region. He has a home studio in his back garden – he calls it the Shedio – and that's where he disappears with his thoughts.

"Things have changed a lot. Back in the day there was the big record label, the management deal and all sorts of people around us. These days it's just my wife and I: we make the decisions, I write the songs, we take it on the road. I kind of like doing things that way. It gives us more artistic control. It's been a steep learning curve but there's a lot to be said for keeping things simple."

Keeping things simple is precisely what The Great Untold does. And with his demos for the record now complete, it's shaping up to be the greatest record of his career.

ANDY RICHARDSON

● Scott Matthews is running a Pledge campaign for people who want to pre-order copies of the record and further details are available at www.scottmatthews.uk

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

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Shrek The Musical

Ogre-awed – Alexandra has dazzling new season

A HOST of exciting productions are set to grace the stage of the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham after the venue revealed its dazzling new season.

Shrek The Musical, Strangers On A Train and the astounding Cirque Berserk are just some of the hit shows lined up at the Station Street theatre. Plus, the UK premiere of Sting's Geordie musical The Last Ship and war drama Sebastian Faulks' Birdsong.

It all kicks off next week with The Sound of Music. The Voice finalist Lucy O'Byrne returns in the role of Maria, opposite EastEnders star Neil McDermott as Captain Von Trapp. The Rodgers and Hammerstein show has an unforgettable score featuring Edelweiss, My Favorite Things, Do-Re-Mi, Climb Ev'ry Mountain, and, of course, the title song. Bill Kenwright's production is staged from January 16 to 20.

Strangers on a Train, January 29 to February 3, is a thriller about a murder swap, made into a classic movie by Alfred Hitchcock. It features Christopher Harper (from Coronation Street) John Middleton (Emmerdale) and Hannah Tointon (Mr Selfridge).

Based on the story and characters from the Oscar-winning Dreamworks animation, Shrek The Musical bursts onto the stage from February 14 to 25.

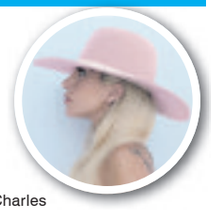
Cirque Berserk features the world's most hair-raising circus act – the motorcycle Globe Of Death. At the theatre from March 14 to 18.

Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff makes his stage debut in Kay Mellor's Fat Friends, alongside Jodie Prenger, Sam Bailey and Kevin Kennedy from April 3 to 7.

The UK premiere of Sting's personal, political and passionate musical The Last Ship is an epic tale of community and defiance starring Jimmy Nail from April 16 to 21.

Legally Blonde The Musical features Eastenders star Rita Simons and Eurovision hopeful Lucie Jones from May 21 to 26. Shows in June will include Summer Holiday The Musical, based on the Cliff Richard film, and Birdsong to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

Busy start to the new year of gigs



Now the festivities are over, the streamers and empties have been cleaned away at the region's venues and it's time to look forward to some of the best gigs coming up early in 2018.

The mega venues boast the biggest names with Paramore at the Genting Arena on January 14 and Lady Gaga (pictured) with her rescheduled tour calling in at the NEC venue on February 1, the day after her Arena Birmingham gig.

Then the Genting has Kendrick Lamar on February 9, The Script (15th), Imagine Dragons (24th), Morrissey (27th) and pride of Wales the Stereophonics on St David's Day, March 1.

Highlights at Birmingham O2 Academy includes festival favourites The Hunna on Thursday (January 11). Hollywood rockers Black Veil Brides co-headline with York's Asking Alexandria on January 23, punk veterans The Damned visit on February 1, then 80s faves Erasure play on February 11. Other February gigs to watch out for at the Academy include Texan punks Bowling For Soup (13th), Slam Dunk regulars Don Broco (15th) and Scottish indie rock legends Franz Ferdinand back with a new album (20th).

Across the city in Digbeth, things start to get interesting at the O2 Institute on February 1 with tipped-for-the-top Reading rockers The Amazons. American punk veterans The Dead Boys mark 40 years since their debut on February 2 and highly rated young American rockers Highly Suspect play on the same night in the venue's larger room. Expect some Sheffield steel on February 6 when up-and-coming metal monsters When She Sleeps roar into action.

Grammy nominated LA R&B singer-songwriter Jhené Aiko is at the Institute on February 8 and California rockers Alien Ant Farm are in action on February 12.

The voice of Mike & The Mechanics and Ace, Paul Carrack, has two concerts at Symphony Hall Birmingham on February 3 and 18.

Aussie star singer Natalie Imbruglia is at Birmingham Town Hall on February 5 and country pop legends The Mavericks will dance the night away at Symphony Hall on February 8.

Highlights at the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath include ex-Special Roddy Radiaion with his Skabilly Rebels on January 13 and the following night it's garage rockers The Surfing Magazines (featuring ex-members of The Wave Pictures and Slow Club).

Craig Charles opens his trunk of funk, DJing at the Hare'n on the 19th. Reggae star General Levy visits on January 27 then there are two nights of psychedelic rock with noisy LA outfit Wand (29th) and San Francisco's Moon Duo (30th).

Things will get pretty cosmic too at the Robin 2 in Bilston on Sunday when the latest version of Space Ritual, featuring founder members of Hawkwind Nik Turner and Terry Ollis, beam down for a space rock celebration.

Also coming up at Mount Pleasant venue is the 30th annivesary performance of rock opera Operation Mindcrime by Geoff Tate on January 17 and British blues rocker Aysley Lister Band on the 18th.

Jump n jive with King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys on January 25, and good time rock n rollers The Quireboys deliver an acoustic set at the Robin on January 28.

Final few recommendations: Watch out for Mobo-winning singer Zara McFarlane at the Hare and Hounds on February 7; the return of Everything Everything after their A Fever Dream album with a gig at the O2 Academy on March 3; and a rare UK outing for American roots outfit Pokey Lafarge at the O2 Institute on March 7.

The Ticket

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SATURDAY'S TV JANUARY 6

CHOICE

Jim Sturgess

Hard Sun
(BBC1, 9.35pm)

A drama series about detectives who stumble across a government conspiracy while investigating a death may not sound particularly original – but the secret that cops Charlie Hicks (Jim Sturgess) and Elaine Renko (Agyness Deyn) uncover in Hard Sun involves the end of the world. The mismatched officers are dealing with a murder in the inner-city when they find proof that the Earth faces certain destruction in just five years due to a mysterious cosmic event, a fact the powers-that-be would very much like to keep under wraps. The duo must use every bit of their ingenuity to protect themselves as they are pursued by Secret Service operatives who are willing to silence them for good.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Everyday. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **12.45** MOTD Live: FA Cup. Fleetwood Town v Leicester City (Kick-off 12.45pm). **3.00** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.10** Celebrity Mastermind. **5.40** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 And They're Off for Sport Relief. New series. Ore Oduba hosts a sporting challenge in which celebrities compete in a series of bizarre races, while members of the public try to predict which star will win.

6.40 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a 1980s edition of the celebrity quiz, featuring four teams of famous faces from the decade seeking unlikely answers.

7.25 Wedding Day Winners. New series. Lorraine Kelly and Rob Beckett host a game show in which two couples, aided by friends and family, compete through a series of challenges for the chance to win a televised wedding and a dream honeymoon.

8.30 Casualty. The truth about Connie's illness is out, following her dramatic collapse while at work. As she recovers, she is devastated to hear that her colleagues are aware of her terminal diagnosis. Worse still is the news that her tumour has grown, and complications now mean that her consultant refuses to operate. Discharging herself, Connie persuades Ethan to drive her to London for a second opinion, but when she loses consciousness en route and is rushed into emergency surgery, her put-upon protege faces an agonising wait for news. Meanwhile, back at the ED, Dylan struggles to hold the fort, in the absence of more experienced hands.

9.20 BBC News; Weather.

9.35 Hard Sun. New series. Sci-fi crime drama starring Jim Sturgess and Agyness Deyn as two detectives who must find a way to keep the peace after discovering that the world is about to end.

10.30 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights: National Lottery Update.

12.05 The NFL Show. **12.35 Film:** The Resident. (2011) **2.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 The Wonder of Animals. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** Matilda and the Ramsay Bunch. **7.45** Matilda and the Ramsay Bunch. **8.00** The Dengineers. **8.30** Deadly Top 10. (R) **9.00** World's Sneakiest Animals. (R) **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.00** Pets – Wild at Heart. (R) **12.00** The Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure. (R) **1.00** Back to the Land with Kate Humble. (R) **2.00** Rome Unpacked. (R) **3.00 Film:** The Letter. (1940) **4.30** Jaguars Born Free: Natural World Special. (R) **5.15** Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. (R) **5.45** Tom Kerridge's Lose Weight For Good. (R)

6.15 Hugh's Wild West. New series. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall goes in search of wildlife with the most dedicated nature lovers in the West Country, beginning in the Wye Valley and the Forest of Dean.

7.15 A House Through Time. Documentary charting 180 years of British history as lived through by the successive inhabitants of a terraced house in Liverpool, from the 1840s to the present day. (R)

8.15 Dad's Army. Capt Mainwaring and the platoon offer to help Pte Godfrey's widowed friend gather in the harvest on her farm – but their well-meaning efforts end in predictable chaos. (R)

8.45 Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs. Paul Murton travels from Loch Gairloch to Loch Maree, meeting the king and queen of Islonia, matching a medieval feat of archery and diving to a wartime wreck in Loch Ewe.

9.15 Feud: Bette and Joan. The convivial atmosphere that Bette is creating with her co-stars frustrates Joan, as she tries to sleep following the beginning of filming in Louisiana.

10.00 Feud: Bette and Joan. Both actresses reflect on what might have been and Joan gets a call from her agent, who advises her against appearing in low-budget feature The Missing Link. Last in the series.

11.00 Live at the Apollo Christmas Special. Festive fun, hosted by Katherine Ryan, with Marlon Davis, Joel Dommett and John Robins.

11.45 QI XL. With Josh Widdicombe.

12.30 Later – with Jools Holland 25th Birthday Show. (R) **2.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister Six. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.55** Scrambled!: Fangbone. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Saturday Morning with James Martin. **11.30** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** Endeavour. (R) **2.40** The Greatest TV Moments of All Time. (R) **4.35** Regional Programme ; Weather.**4.45** ITV News; Weather. **4.55** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R)

6.00 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts a celebrity special of the game show, with Ellie Simmonds, Fay Ripley and Jimmy Carr guessing the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues.

7.00 Take Me Out. New series. A hairdresser, a rugby player, a children's entertainer and a student try to impress 30 single women and win a date. Paddy McGuinness presents.

8.00 The Voice UK. New series. Emma Willis hosts the seventh series of the singing contest, which this year sees Olly Murs joining returning coaches Will.i.am, Tom Jones and Jennifer Hudson on the famous spinning chairs. The search for a star kicks off, as usual, with the first in a series of rounds of blind auditions, as the panel listen to each contestant with their backs turned, ensuring that they judge the performance on the strength of vocal ability alone. Those who succeed here will progress to the Battle and Knockout phases.

9.35 ITV News; Weather.

9.50 Film: Spectre. (2015) James Bond goes rogue after receiving a cryptic message that sets him on the trail of a secretive criminal network. While his colleagues face a new threat closer to home, Bond embarks on a globetrotting journey in search of the elusive mastermind behind the syndicate – whom he discovers may have links to his own past. Spy thriller, starring Daniel Craig.

12.30 Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

7.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.50** Frasier. (R) **8.20** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.15** The Simpsons. (R) **11.45** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. (R) **12.45** Darts: BDO Lakeside World Professional Championships. Live coverage of the afternoon session on the opening day of the tournament. **5.30** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Spying on the Royals. Part one of a two-part documentary examining an espionage operation conducted to gather information on Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson. Shown to mark the 80th anniversary of the king's abdication, the programmes examines recently declassified documents revealing the extent of the surveillance and who ordered it, as well as featuring dramatic reconstructions and eyewitness accounts. (R)

8.00 Princess Diana's "Wicked" Stepmother. An examination of the turbulent relationship between Diana, Princess of Wales and her formidable stepmother Raine Spencer, who rose from humble origins with the help of her larger-than-life mother, the novelist Barbara Cartland, to become a countess and a member of the royal family. Raine was a divisive figure, who was doted on by her husband Johnnie Spencer but loathed by Diana and her siblings. Yet as the princess's marriage collapsed, she reached out to her stepmother for support, marking a change in the women's relationship. (R)

9.00 Film: The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2. (2015) Premiere. The civilisation of Panem is consumed by a bloody civil war. Reluctant rebel leader Katniss Everdeen leads a band of her allies on a mission to end the conflict at one stroke by assassinating the despotic President Snow – but faces many dangers as she closes in on her target. Conclusion of the sci-fi adventure series based on Suzanne Collins' novels, starring Jennifer Lawrence.

11.40 Film: The Transporter. (2002)

1.25 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.15** Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.35** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.10** Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **10.40** Cruising with Jane McDonald Christmas Special. (R) **11.40 Film:** West Side Story. (1961) **2.30 Film:** The Hundred-Foot Journey. (2014) Comedy drama, starring Helen Mirren. **3.30** 5 News Update. **3.35 Film:** The Hundred-Foot Journey. (2014) Concluded. **4.55** 5 News Weekend. **5.00** Playful Pups Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R)

6.00 The Wonderful World of Puppies. New series. Documentary charting the first few months of a dog's life, following different breeds as they take the first steps on their own unique developmental journey. Dalmatians Daphne and Digby start to develop the spots that will mark them out for life, and take their first stumbling steps in the great outdoors. Ruby the toy poodle's huge personality belies her diminutive frame, while abandoned Jack Russell pup Boomer's shattered confidence will need to be rebuilt by the love of a foster home.

7.00 Greatest Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever! Joe Pasquale narrates a special documentary celebrating some of the greatest pranks celebrities have managed to play on each other. (R)

8.00 Blind Date. Paul O'Grady hosts a revival of the dating show in which a drama teacher from Surrey and a digger driver from Hull must choose between three unseen suitors.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. Friday's highlights from the house, including another chance to see what surprise Big Brother sprung on the women last night.

10.00 Worst Celebrity Pop Songs Ever. A countdown of the 40 most memorable records by celebrities, featuring performances by Mr T, Katie Price, Vinnie Jones, Sam Fox and an assortment of soap stars. (R)

11.45 Lip Sync Battle UK: Rufus Hound v Jorgie Porter. Melanie Brown and Professor Green present the musical game show as comedian Rufus Hound and actress Jorgie Porter go head to head lip-synching to a hit song. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh. (R) **4.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History **8.00** Alaska – Earth's Frozen Kingdom **9.00** Spiral **11.05** The Vietnam War **12.00** Bee Gees at the BBC and Beyond **1.00** Disco at the BBC **2.00** Alaska – Earth's Frozen Kingdom **3.00** Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History **4.00** Close

ITV2

12.00 The Big Soap Quiz: Coronation Street v Emmerdale **1.00** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway Presents – Who Shot Simon Cowell? **1.30** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.05 Film:** Legally Blonde (2001) **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10 Film:** Legally Blonde (2001) **4.55 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **6.40 Film:** The Mummy (1999) **7.40** FYI Daily **7.45 Film:** The Mummy (1999) **9.00 Film:** The Hangover (2009) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** The Hangover (2009) **11.10** Family Guy **12.10** American Dad! **1.05 Film:** Paranoia (2013) **2.05** FYI Daily **2.10 Film:** Paranoia (2013) **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.05 Foyle's War **1.10 Film:** Columbo: Suitable for Framing (1971) **2.55** Midsomer Murders **11.00** The Suspicions of Mr Whicher: The Murder in Angel Lane **1.00** On the Buses **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Sandown & Wincanton. Ed Chamberlin presents live coverage of today's race meetings. **4.05 Film:** Khartoum (1966) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15 Film:** Khartoum (1966) **6.45 Film:** Dr No (1962) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55 Film:** Dr No (1962) **9.00 Film:** The Enforcer (1976) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** The Enforcer (1976) **11.05 Film:** Platoon (1986) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15 Film:** Platoon (1986) **1.25** Car Crash Global: Caught on Camera **2.25** Tommy Cooper **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4

12.30 Don't Tell the Bride **1.35** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Red (2010) **11.10** Gogglebox **1.20** Rude Tube: Love Bytes **2.20** Gogglebox **3.15** First Dates **4.10** How I Met Your Mother **4.55** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4

11.00 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (2012) **1.00** The Indian in the Cupboard (1995) **2.50** Rio (2011) **4.40** Tooth Fairy (2010) **6.45** GI Joe: Retaliation (2013) **9.00** Now You See Me (2013) **11.15** Insidious: Chapter 3 (2015) **1.10** Mr Nice (2010) **3.35** Close

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SUNDAY'S TV JANUARY 7

CHOICE

Holly Willoughby (left)

Dancing on Ice (ITV, 6pm)

Some shows just run and run, never pausing for breath and seemingly always at the top of the ratings tree. Others burn brightly, fade away and need a wee rest before coming back better than ever. ITV is hoping that Dancing on Ice falls into the latter category. It ran for nine series between 2006 and 2014, then took a break. Now it's back, as are presenters Holly Willoughby and Phillip Schofield and judge Jason Gardiner; Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean return too, but as judges rather than mentors, while Ashley Banjo will also offer his opinions. But it's the participants we're most interested in, and they're a mixed bunch.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out. (R) **1.40** MOTD Live: FA Cup. Shrewsbury Town v West Ham United (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Antiques Roadshow. (R)

6.05 BBC News.

6.20 Regional Programme.

6.30 Countryfile. The team explores the Ribble Valley. Matt Baker visits the Gisburn Forest, Anita Rani meets refugees who are discovering farming in the snow, and Adam Henson learns about stallions that have a vital role to play in preserving rare breeds of horses. Plus, Tom Heap reports on a controversy surrounding new rules on gun licensing. Including weather for the week ahead.

7.30 Still Open All Hours. Granville has a new idea for growing the business and branches out into offering fitness classes, while Mr Newbold undergoes an image overhaul to repel Mrs Featherstone.

8.00 Attenborough and the Sea Dragon. The naturalist joins a team of scientists examining the 200 million-year-old fossilised remains of an icthyosaur, a vast sea creature which was discovered on Dorset's Jurassic Coast. As the skeleton is reassembled, advanced imaging technology and computer animation is used to create a simulation of the sea creature as it would have appeared when it was still alive – the most detailed reconstruction of its kind ever attempted. Meanwhile, forensic investigators painstakingly examine the bones to solve the mystery of how the icthyosaur died.

9.00 McMafia. Alex receives an offer from someone claiming to be an old friend, and Semiyon seeks backing for his business venture – while Lyudmilla uncovers his investors' secrets.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights.

11.30 The Women's Football Show.

12.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 Coast. (R) **7.20** The Instant Gardener. (R) **8.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** Greatest Gardens. (R) **9.05** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) **12.00** Food & Drink. (R) **12.30** The A to Z of TV Cooking. (R) **12.40** Meet the Moose Family: Natural World. (R) **1.40** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.10** Talking Pictures: Maggie Smith. (R) **2.50 Film:** Ladies in Lavender. (2004) Period drama, starring Judi Dench and Maggie Smith. **4.30** Flog It! (R) **5.15** Ski Sunday.

6.00 The Real T. Rex with Chris Packham. Chris Packham embarks on a global journey to discover the truth about the Tyrannosaurus rex, which has endured centuries of scientific inaccuracy and Hollywood misrepresentation. The naturalist uses new studies into dinosaur skin, teeth and muscles, as well as groundbreaking insights into its behaviour to create the most accurate CGI representation of the dinosaur ever produced. To help, Chris speaks to experts in birds, biomechanics and alligators, and has access to one of the most complete Tyrannosaurus rex skeletons in existence. (R)

7.00 Robot Wars Special 2017: The World Series. The second of two specials pitting champions from past series against rivals from other countries, featuring contenders from Russia, the USA, Canada and the Netherlands.

8.00 Dragons' Den. A serial entrepreneur pitches his online greeting card business, and a Surrey-based inventor hopes his word game could become a family Christmas favourite. (R)

9.00 Michael Palin: A Life on Screen. The actor and writer looks back on his career. Featuring classic clips from the archives and contributions from collaborators John Cleese, David Jason and Armando Iannucci.

10.00 Film: And Now for Something Completely Different. (1971) Compilation of sketches from the first two series of Monty Python's Flying Circus. Starring John Cleese, Michael Palin, Terry Jones, Graham Chapman, Eric Idle and Terry Gilliam.

11.25 Film: Strictly Ballroom. (1992)

1.00 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.55** Holby City. (R) **2.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister Six. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.55** Scrambled!: Ben 10. **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Spy School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** River Monsters. (R) **9.55** The Voice UK. (R) **11.30** Tipping Point. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** A Right Royal Quiz. (R) **1.40** The Big Soap Quiz: Coronation Street v Emmerdale. (R) **2.45** Catchphrase. (R) **3.45** Regional Programme ; Weather. **4.00** ITV News; Weather. **4.10 Film:** Happy Feet Two. (2011) Animated musical comedy sequel, with the voice of Elijah Wood.

6.00 Dancing on Ice. New series. Celebrities and professional partners figure skaters pair up as after a four-year break, Holly Willoughby and Phillip Schofield reunite as hosts of the popular dance contest. Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean are also back, though as judges rather than mentors, alongside Jason Gardiner and Ashley Banjo. This year's contestants are Donna Air, Cheryl Baker, Alex Beresford, Candice Brown, Kem Cetinay, Antony Cotton, Max Evans, Lemar, Jake Quickenden, Perri Shakes-Drayton, Brooke Vincent and Stephanie Waring.

8.00 Vera. New series. The detective investigates when charred human remains are found in an abattoir furnace, and attempts to deduce who they belong to and how they came to be here. Brenda Blethyn returns for an eighth series of mysteries based on Ann Cleeves' novels.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.10 Film: Captain Phillips. (2013) The captain of a cargo ship travelling around the coast of Somalia is taken hostage when pirates raid the vessel. Fact-based thriller, starring Tom Hanks and Barkhad Abdi.

12.35 Great Art. (R) **1.30** Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. **3.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Darts: BDO Lakeside World Professional Championships. Live coverage of the afternoon session on the second day of the tournament. **5.30** The Great Festive Bake Off. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The World's Wildest Weather. Footage shot by members of the public of unusual and dangerous weather from around the world, including Alpine avalanches and cyclones in the South Pacific. The programme features first-hand accounts of the events featured and scientific analysis of the footage and how the strange weather conditions came about.

8.00 The Biggest Little Railway in the World. New series. Dick Strawbridge leads a team of enthusiasts attempting to build the longest model railway in history, stretching 71 miles across Scotland from Fort William on the west coast to Inverness on the east coast. The project faces an early challenge navigating the Caledonian Canal, but a train ferry proves an ingenious solution. The team must also apply full-size railway technology to the task of traversing Loch Lochy.

9.00 SAS: Who Dares Wins. New series. Reality show in which people are put through SAS recruitment tests to see whether they can match up to the pressures the elite regiment faces. This time, the show comes from Morocco's Atlas Mountains, and chief Instructor Ant Middleton and his Directing Staff have comes up with an intensified course for the 25 volunteers.

10.00 Film: The Sweeney. (2012) An insubordinate detective and his loyal partner must crack a robbery case while under investigation from their superiors. Crime thriller, starring Ray Winstone and Ben Drew.

12.10 Film: Moonrise Kingdom. (2012) Comedy drama, with Bruce Willis and Edward Norton. **1.55** Grand Designs Australia. (R) **2.50** Location, Location, Location. (R) **3.45** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **4.15** Coast vs Country. (R) **5.10** Four in a Bed. (R) **5.35** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.35** Wissper. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.45** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **6.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.35** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.40** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.25** Nella the Princess Knight. **8.40** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.25** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.20** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. **10.40 Film:** Groundhog Day. (1993) **12.40 Film:** Practical Magic. (1998) **2.40** Will & Grace. (R) **3.10** Blind Date. (R) **4.15 Film:** The Love Punch. (2013)

6.00 The Two Ronnies: In Their Own Words. A celebration of the lives and careers of comedy duo Ronnie Barker and Ronnie Corbett, featuring performances, chat show appearances and rare and long-forgotten archive material. (R)

8.00 Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present action from the 13th round of matches, including Worcester Warriors v Bath, Northampton Saints v Gloucester, and Wasps v Saracens.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of another day for the illustrious inhabitants as they cope with the day-to-day complications of life under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother.

10.00 Film: Hot Pursuit. (2015) Premiere. An uptight police officer has to protect a gangster's widow as they go on the run from hitmen and corrupt cops. Crime comedy, with Reese Witherspoon.

11.00 5 News Update.

11.05 Film: Hot Pursuit. (2015) Concluded.

11.50 One Night with My Ex. Former couples decide if they should get back together, including Jay and Sandy, whose passionate relationship ended when she heard rumours he had been unfaithful. (R)

12.50 Lip Sync Battle UK: Jimmy Carr vs Alexander Armstrong. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Only Connect **7.30** Britain on Film: Messing About in Boats **8.00** Dan Snow on Lloyd George: My Great Great Grandfather **9.00** Engineering Giants: Ferry Strip-Down **10.00** The Bridge: Fifty Years Across the Forth **11.00 Film:** Stations of the Cross (2014) **12.45** Dan Snow on Lloyd George: My Great Great Grandfather **1.45** Engineering Giants: Ferry Strip-Down **2.45** The Bridge: Fifty Years Across the Forth **3.45** Close

ITV2

12.35 Take Me Out **1.40** The Voice UK **3.20 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **4.50** FYI Daily **4.55 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **5.25 Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30 Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30 Film:** Delivery Man (2013) **1.35** FYI Daily **1.40 Film:** Delivery Man (2013) **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.35 Foyle's War **5.50** Endeavour **8.00** Les Dawson: An Audience With That Never Was **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **12.00** Midsomer Murders **1.50** Executed **2.45** Road to Avonlea **4.35** On the Buses **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

11.25 Pawn Stars **1.45 Film:** The Sea Wolves (1980) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55 Film:** The Sea Wolves (1980) **4.10 Film:** Khartoum (1966) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15 Film:** Khartoum (1966) **6.50** Hornblower **9.00 Film:** Ransom (1996) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** Ransom (1996) **11.30 Film:** RoboCop 3 (1993) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35 Film:** RoboCop 3 (1993) **1.35** The Professionals **2.35** The Protectors **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.00 Film: The Borrowers (1997) **1.40** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00 Film:** Titanic (1997) **10.50 Film:** American Reunion (2012) **1.05** Gogglebox **2.10** First Dates **3.15** Rude Tube **3.40** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 Stuart Little (1999) **1.00** Robots (2005) **2.40** Antz (1998) **4.20** Home Alone (1990) **6.25** The Core (2003) Sci-fi thriller, starring Aaron Eckhart. **9.00** Die Hard 2 (1990) Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis. **11.25** Savages (2012) **2.00** The Pool (2007) **4.00** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Killer Mom, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. When 14-year-old Allison loses her father in a plane crash a few years after her adoptive mother died, she is devastated. At the funeral, she is shocked to meet her birth mother Jessica, who is intent on controlling the $40m her daughter is set to inherit. Thriller, starring Karen Cliche. (2017)

TUESDAY

Eyewitness, Channel 5, 3.15pm
After her testimony sent him to jail, a woman finds herself held captive in her own home when the man who murdered her father and fiancee escapes from prison to confront her. Thriller, starring Lindy Booth, Craig Olejnik and Jon McLaren. (2017)

WEDNESDAY

The Social Network, Channel 4, 1.10am
Fact-based drama following internet billionaire Mark Zuckerberg's rise to wealth and fame. An online prank played on an ex-girlfriend gives Harvard student Zuckerberg the idea for Facebook, which soon expands away from the famous university into a worldwide phenomenon. However, in getting his project off the ground, he makes enemies of those who helped him along the way. With Jesse Eisenberg, Andrew Garfield and Justin Timberlake. (2010)

The Social Network, Wednesday, Channel 4, 1.10am

THURSDAY

Dear Diary, I Died, Channel 5, 3.15pm
When a college student appears to have committed suicide, her sister tries to uncover the secrets behind her death. Thriller, starring Katherine Kelly Lang, Whitney Rose Pynn and John J York. Edited for language. (2016)

FRIDAY

Amy, Channel 4, 12.10am
Documentary portrait of soul, jazz and R'n'B singer-songwriter Amy Winehouse, whose untimely death in July 2011 followed a well-publicised history of drugs and alcohol abuse. Director Asif Kapadia traces Amy's rise and demise over the 13 years preceding her death, telling her story via her music and autobiographical song lyrics. (2015).

PICK OF THE WEEK

The boys are back in town for a thrilling new series

When ITV launched the action drama series Lethal Weapon last year, a lot of viewers were initially sceptical about its chances of success. For a start, it's rare for US series to be shown on the channel in primetime – even the acclaimed The Americans struggled in the ratings and was eventually moved to ITV Encore.

And then there's the fact that Lethal Weapon was based on a hugely successful movie franchise – would viewers be able to accept a Riggs and Murtaugh who were played by anyone other than Mel Gibson and Danny Glover?

It seems even actor Clayne Crawford, who plays the Gibson role of loose cannon Riggs, didn't expect audiences to share his enthusiasm for the show.

He told Collider: "I read the script on a plane and I had that moment of being a 12-year-old boy, who just wants to play cowboys and superheroes. I was like, 'This is a cowboy superhero!' I called my wife and said, 'Look, I think I'm gonna say yes, but there's no way it will make it past three episodes.'"

Luckily, he was proved wrong. Not only did US audiences take the revamped Lethal Weapon to their hearts, but so did UK viewers – meaning not only is there a second season, but it's now back on ITV.

For anyone who missed the first series (or the films that inspired it), it focuses on the cop duo of Riggs, a reckless former Navy SEAL who moved to LA following the deaths of his wife Miranda and their unborn child, and Murtaugh (Damon Wayans), a steady family man who returned to the force following a heart attack.

The previous run ended with Murtaugh discovering just how far Riggs was prepared to go in pursuit of his wife's killers.

In this opening episode, Riggs is in Mexico, where he plans to avenge Miranda's death and finish off Tito Flores (Danny Mora) once and for all – but the cop's loyal partner is on his trail.

Once the duo are back in the US, they face some tough questions due to the ongoing investigation into Flores' activities – and Murtaugh's family also have a few points they'd like to get cleared up.

Meanwhile, Captain Avery (Kevin Rahm) is questioned by Internal Affairs about the integrity of his department.

But if the Miranda storyline does get wrapped up, can we expect a calmer, more responsible Riggs in the rest of season 2?

It seems not, as Crawford says that the forthcoming episodes will reveal that some of his character's problems predate the tragic loss of his family. Speaking to Collider, he said: "The beauty of TV is that you have 22 hours to tell a story, so we're gonna really find out who Riggs is and who he was before, and go into his childhood to see that it started out bad.

"I don't think we ever want Riggs healthy. The more Riggs is a mess, the more fun it is."

Lethal Weapon, Friday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Silent Witness
BBC1, 9pm
New series. Part one of two. Nikki struggles to come to terms with life back home and seeks out fellow pathologist Sally Vaughan for support, only to learn she is nowhere to be found. National Crime Agency investigator Guy Bernhardt asks Nikki to help him by employing pathologist David Cannon, the chief suspect in Sally's disappearance. Meanwhile, a body found in a reservoir is linked to a murder case from 16 years previously. Return of the crime drama, starring Emilia Fox, with Julian Rhind-Tutt and Alex Macqueen.

TUESDAY

Working Class White Men
Channel 4, 10pm
The first of a two-part documentary in which Professor Green finds out what life in modern Britain is like for working-class men in different parts of the country. He begins by meeting Lewis, who has his heart set on going to Cambridge University but is up against a culture of low expectations, Essex boy Denzil, an aspiring entrepreneur with numerous money-making schemes on the go, and unemployed David, who is currently living in a homeless hostel in Bolton and is on the verge of becoming involved in far-right politics.

WEDNESDAY

Kiri
Channel 4, 9pm
Two Bafta-winners – Jack Thorne, the writer behind National Treasure, and actress Sarah Lancashire, who picked up awards for Happy Valley and Last Tango in Halifax – team up for this highly anticipated new drama. Lancashire stars as Miriam, a no-nonsense social worker who takes an instinctive approach to protecting the children in her care. But her methods are called into question when she arranges for Kiri, a black girl who is about to be adopted by her white foster family, to have an unsupervised visit with her biological grandparents, only for the youngster to then disappear. The police, the press and even her colleagues seem to blame Miriam, but as the media spotlight intensifies, both sets of families also face some difficult questions.

THURSDAY

Big Cats
BBC1, 8pm
We are in a golden age of natural world television. However, of all the rare and fascinating creatures that have been caught on camera of late, there is still one group of animals that enthral us more than any other - the big cats. They are the planet's top predators, yet even in this remarkable animal family, some members stand out. The African lion, for example, is the only wild cat that lives in large family groups, and in Ruaha, Tanzania, we see how they form huge 'super prides' in order to hunt giants. There is also revealing footage of a tiny rusty spotted cat in Sri Lanka, a lynx surviving the bitterly cold winter in Canada, an African leopard raising her cub, and perhaps the world's most lonesome cat, the snow leopard, searching for a mate in the Himalayas.

Transformation Street, Thursday, ITV, 9pm

Transformation Street
ITV, 9pm
From firemen to soldiers, railway workers to writers, this three-part series follows the extraordinary transformations of men and women who all believe they were born into the wrong body. Filmed over a 12-month period, cameras have been given unprecedented access to a private clinic on Wimpole Street in London, run by world-renowned plastic surgeon Christopher Inglefield. Tonight we meet 20-year-old Lucas, who was born a girl but has been living as a man for two years. He arrives at the clinic with his mum Karen, for a consultation about having his breasts removed. Railway worker Wendy, 43, is also about to undergo her gender confirmation surgery at the clinic. After counting down the days for thirty years, Wendy is determined to have the female body that she felt should have been hers at birth and to have her male genitals removed.

FRIDAY

The Wine Show
Channel 5, 7pm
New series. Actors Matthew Goode and James Purefoy travel to the south of France to find wines to accompany a six-course lunch chosen by Michelin-starred chef Stephane Reynaud.

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BRAIN GYM

No.461

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

4	12	17	3	■	3	10	8	12	5	5	3	21
23	■	23	■	■	14	■	■	2	■	2	■	8
21	■	5	2	19	18	15	23	24	■	18	■	24
3	22	2	■	■	■	23	■	■	11	23	13	20
21	■	8	■	7	23	19	20	■	■	18	■	3
■	18	1	3	3	■	18	■	7	9	2	2	21
■	■	■	■	■	23	■	12	■	23	■	■	■
3	16	8	9	18	■	6	■	7	8	9	20	■
1	■	24	■	■	9	23	25	26	■	3	■	10
19	23	19	11	■	■	18	■	■	■	22	24	8
23	■	8	■	3	16	3	6	8	18	3	■	12 I
18	■	24	■	15	■	■	2	■	■	24	■	9 L
25	12	22	22	8	1	23	18	■	3	21	12	18

1												14
2												15
3												16
4												17
5												18
6												19
7												20
8												21
9 L												22
10												23
11												24
12 I												25
13												26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 O	2 F	3 H	4 T	5 M	6 Z	7 A	8 U	9 D	10 P	11 V	12 Y	13 X
14 K	15 B	16 J	17 R	18 N	19 G	20 W	21 I	22 E	23 L	24 C	25 S	26 Q

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

1	■	2	■	3	■	■	4	■	5	■	6	
7						8						
	■		■		■	9		■		■		
10							11					
	■		■		■			■		■		
12				13					■	■	■	
	■		■	14			■		15		16	
■	■	■	17				■	18				
19		20	■		■		21	■		■		
22						23						
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
24						■	25					
	■		■		■	■		■		■		

Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Changes which should be made by wrongdoers (6)
8. The source of a writer's material (6)
10. Send a boat down for coal (7)
11. Piece of land is on lease (5)
12. Some pay earned for a period (4)
13. Hides one's relatives on board (5)
17. A view that makes sense (5)
18. A pressing need (4)
22. Unusually eager to come to terms (5)
23. Smoke and produce an angry reaction (7)
24. Something to read in bed? (6)
25. They work to avoid discord (6)

Down

1. It sees or can be seen in the dark (4,3)
2. It has no meaning (7)
3. Revises information about tides (5)
4. Sensing change they finish top of the staff perhaps (7)
5. Upset to make light of (5)
6. Speak for the government? (5)
9. It may be adjusted for the rest of the holiday (4,5)
14. Generous in providing a form of Braille (7)
15. There are all types in his trade (7)
16. Concentrated in a nervous way (7)
19. One with no faith in father backing a horse (5)
20. Body in the baggage (5)
21. Brush and clean thoroughly (5)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Mend (6)
8. Hurry (6)
10. Guard (7)
11. Pamphlet (5)
12. Pitcher (4)
13. Underneath (5)
17. Ill-defined (5)
18. Independent (4)
22. Depress (5)
23. Honest (7)
24. Noiseless (6)
25. Style (6)

Down

1. Seer (7)
2. Against (7)
3. Compare (5)
4. Wariness (7)
5. Filch (5)
6. Concord (5)
9. Energetic (9)
14. Tramp (7)
15. Bandit (7)
16. Bonds (7)
19. Near (5)
20. Reside (5)
21. Fracture (5)

Sudoku

	3	5	7		9			2
6		9				1		
8				5	1			3
				3		8		
	5		2		7			
		4		8				6
7			4					
		3			2	9		7
4		1	5		6	2	3	

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	2	6	4	9	3	8	1	5
4	1	5	6	8	2	3	7	9
9	3	8	5	1	7	6	4	2
5	6	1	3	4	9	7	2	8
3	4	7	2	5	8	1	9	6
2	8	9	1	7	6	5	3	4
6	5	2	7	3	4	9	8	1
1	9	3	8	2	5	4	6	7
8	7	4	9	6	1	2	5	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Poker; 4 Varnish; 8 Opinion; 9 Cream; 10 Lees; 11 Fortress; 13 Book; 14 Flog; 16 Tranquil; 17 Heat; 20 Chide; 21 Embargo; 22 Lighter; 23 Thyme. Down: 1 Problematical; 2 Knife; 3 Rail; 4 Vendor; 5 Recitals; 6 Iceberg; 7 Home sweet home; 12 Conquest; 13 Bearing; 15 Linear; 18 Early; 19 Abut.
QUICK - Across: 1 Rival; 4 Diverts; 8 Fatuous; 9 Ledge; 10 Idle; 11 Profound; 13 Etna; 14 Heat; 16 Archives; 17 Part; 20 Irate; 21 Elevate; 22 Natural; 23 Dress. Down: 1 Refrigeration; 2 Vital; 3 Loot; 4 Desert; 5 Vilified; 6 Redoubt; 7 Steadfastness; 12 Engineer; 13 Enchant; 15 Reveal; 18 Abate; 19 Send.

Quiz

1. In which bay is the island of Capri?
2. Which soprano was born Helen Porter Mitchell?
3. In which city were the Plymouth Brethren founded?
4. In which Austrian city was Mozart born?
5. What was the Beatles' own record label called?
6. Which city's Roman name was Durovernum?
7. Which Royal's middle names are Elizabeth Alice Louise?
8. Which Radio 4 show did Kenneth Robinson present for 15 years?
9. Of what is the tog a unit of measurement?
10. Of which country was Victor Emmanuel proclaimed king in 1861?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Edward VII; 2 White dove; 3 Grampians; 4 Crimean; 5 A tree; 6 Woody Woodpecker; 7 Bob Dylan; 8 Sarajevo; 9 Henrik Ibsen; 10 Vega.

Niner: FLOUNDERS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

12736 gives a fish,
2933458 gives a second fish,
2769 gives a third fish.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Spacious family home for sale with no chain

In a sought after location, this deceptively spacious three bedroomed detached family home in Charlock Grove, Heath Hayes, Cannock is for sale through Webbs at £205,000 with no chain.

Coming with a secluded rear garden, this well presented property has accommodation which briefly comprises of an entrance hallway, a generous lounge/diner, a full width conservatory, a fitted kitchen, guest WC, three bedrooms and a family shower room.

Outside there is landscaped gardens, a private driveway and an integral garage.

The kitchen has a window to the front, roll edged working surfaces, an inset single drainer sink, integrated oven with a hob and extractor hood over, integrated fridge, freezer, plumbing for a washing machine and a door to the garage.

Having French doors, the generous lounge has a feature fireplace with a gas fire. The conservatory has French doors to the garden and is heated by two wall mounted radiators.

Upstairs the landing has loft access. Bedroom one has a wardrobe storage alcove. Bedroom two has a wardrobe and there is a third bedroom. The shower room features a double walk-in shower with a glass built wall, a wall mounted wash hand basin and a low level WC, wall tiling and a wall mounted towel radiator.

Outside, the rear garden is fully enclosed with fencing, ornate gravel areas, bedding plants and shrub borders with a gated access to the front elevation.

Established & Trusted since 1994, Webbs Estate Agents is an independently owned family business built on reputation and service. Their experienced sales team offer expertise gained from extensive market knowledge. Buyers and sellers can expect to receive excellent market intelligence and strategic marketing advice.

HEATH HAYES £205,000

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Webbs
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KEY FEATURES

- Detached family home
- Deceptively spacious
- Well presented
- Popular location
- 3 bedrooms

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Offers Around £54,000

Two Bedroom Apartment	Bathroom
Lounge	60% Shared Ownership
Kitchen	Awaiting EPC

St Johns Road, Cannock

Offers Around £75,000

First Floor Flat	Allocated Parking
One Bedroom	Long Lease
Exceptionally Presented	EPC C

Cannock Road, Heath Hayes

Offers Over £90,000

Ground Floor Flat	Gated Access
Two Bedrooms	NO CHAIN
Newly Refurbished	EPC C

Hobby Way, Cannock

Offers Around £109,950

Ground Floor Apartment	Bathroom
Two Bedrooms	Allocated Parking
Kitchen / Diner	EPC C

Curlew Hil, Cannock

Offers Around £150,000

Semi Detached Property	Tandem Garage
Three Bedrooms	Front & Rear Gardens
Fully Renovated	EPC E

Rectory Gardens, Rugeley

Offers Around £155,000

Terraced Property	Kitchen
Three Bedrooms	Garage
Lounge	EPC E

Norton East Road, Norton Canes

Offers Around £155,000

Semi Detached Property	Sought After Location
Three Bedrooms	Close to Chase Water
Off Road Parking	EPC D

Beech Pine Close, Hednesford

Offers Around £160,000

Semi Detached Property	Bathroom
Three Bedrooms	Off Road Parking
Kitchen/Diner	EPC D

Badgers Way, Heath Hayes

Offers Around £170,000

Link Detached Property	Kitchen
Three Bedrooms	Conservatory
Lounge	EPC D

Cherry Bank, Hednesford

Offers Around £175,000

Detached Property	Corner Plot
Three Bedrooms	Detached Garage
Conservatory	EPC D

Far Lady Croft, Armitage

Offers Around £199,950

Town House Property	Fitted Kitchen
Four Bedrooms	Off Road Parking
Lounge / Diner	EPC B

Fremantle Drive, Cannock

Offers Around £220,000

Detached Property	Conservatory
Three Bedrooms	Off Road Parking
Three Reception Rooms	EPC C

Waterlily Close, Cannock

Offers Around £230,000

Detached Property	Guest WC
Three Bedrooms	Conservatory
Two Bathrooms	EPC E

St David Close, Hednesford

Offers Around £240,000

Detached Property	En Suite
Four Bedrooms	Garage
Kitchen	EPC D

Rowan Drive, Handsacre

Offers Around £240,000

Detached Bungalow	Bathroom
Two Bedrooms	Conservatory
Lounge	EPC D

Walsall Road, Great Wyrley

Offers Around £250,000

Detached Property	Outdoor Heated Swimming Pool
Four Bedrooms	No Chain
Ample Off Road Parking	EPC D

Canterbury Drive, Rugeley

Offers Around £265,000

Detached Property	Sought After Location
Four Bedrooms	Garage
Two Bathrooms	EPC C

Triangle View, Burntwood

Offers Around £295,000

Detached Property	Ample Parking and Garage
Four Bedrooms	NO CHAIN
Family Bathroom and En Suite	

Rugeley Road, Hazelslade

Offers Around £375,000

New Build Detached Property	Two En Suites
Four Bedrooms	Rear Garden
Choice of Kitchen	Awaiting EPC

School Lane, Shareshill

Offers Around £400,000

Detached Dormer Bungalow	Off Road Parking
Four Bedrooms	Sough After Area
Two Bathrooms	EPC D

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Spacious property in a popular area

WOLVERHAMPTON
£130,000

Occupying a choice position on a small cul-de-sac in a popular residential area, 25 Whernside Drive, Whitemore Reans, Wolverhampton is a deceptively spacious semi-detached property that has been thoughtfully extended.

Now having surprisingly spacious living accommodation, it is for sale through Thomas Harvey Estate Agents at £130,000. Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, kitchen, open plan rear living room withdining area, family room, three double bedrooms, and bathroom.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest be shown in the sale of this property. For further information, or to book that all important viewing, contact Thomas Harvey on 01902 758111 or visit www.thomasharvey.co.uk

Attractive detached home sits on a lovely plot

TETTENHALL
£499,950 <<<

Recently new to the property market, this exceptionally attractive detached residence in Wergs Drive, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, stands in a lovely large plot at the end of an exclusive small cul-de-sac.

It is for sale through Bartlams Estate Agents at £499,950

It has excellent accommodation of traditional character and comfortably appointed specification.

There is scope for some upgrading and enlargement to realise its full potential, said a spokesman for the selling agents.

Outside is extensive mature landscaped gardens providing a delightful environment with a good degree of privacy. This is a superb overall plot area of almost half an acre.

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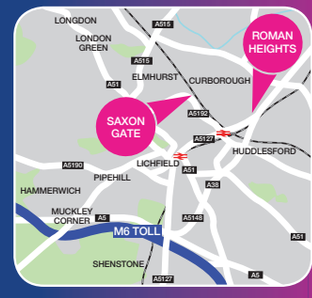

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Beautifully presented three bedroom detached family home / Private gated driveway / Extremely private & secure plot / Remote controlled gated entrance / Spacious living accommodation

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Stunning character property dating back to the 1750's / Spacious five bedroom link detached home / Numerous reception rooms / Inglenook fireplaces / Exposed oak beams

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WIMBLEBURY

Well presented four bedroom detached house / Finished to high specification throughout / Set back from main road / Shared private driveway / Spacious living & sleeping accommodation

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RUGELEY

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£300,000	£6,480	£2,860	£3,630
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Burnthill Lane
RUGELEY

Four bedroom detached family home / Set on a good sized corner plot / NO ONWARD CHAIN / Driveway and an integral garage / Superb reception style conservatory

£245,000

St David Close
RAWNSLEY

Four bedroom detached house / Quiet cul-de-sac / Sought after semi-rural setting of Rawnsley / Spacious lounge and separate dining room

£240,000

Badgers Way
HEATH HAYES

Well presented two bedroom detached bungalow / Set on enviable corner plot at end of private driveway / Spacious open plan lounge-diner / Delightful rear conservatory

£239,950

Waverley Gardens
ETCHING HILL

Four bedroom detached house / Delightful views of Cannock Chase to the rear / Useful ground floor bedroom and shower room / Spacious lounge and open plan kitchen-diner

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The Beeches
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Well presented three bedroom detached house / Quiet cul-de-sac / Freshly decorated throughout / Good sized private front and rear gardens / Off road parking and a garage

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Extended four bedroom semi detached house / Quiet cul-de-sac location / NO ONWARD CHAIN / Single integral garage / Driveway for two vehicles

£185,000

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Well presented three bedroom town house / Situated down quiet cul-de-sac / Spacious living & sleeping accommodation / Set over three storeys / Modern open plan dining kitchen / Top floor master

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HEDNESFORD

Well presented three-four bedroom semi detached house / Converted garage used as an extra bedroom / Ground floor extension to rear offering further living space

£185,000

Dugdale Close
WIMBLEBURY

Well presented three bedroom link detached house / NO ONWARD CHAIN / Spacious open plan lounge diner / Modern fitted bathroom / Large garage & driveway for several vehicles

£170,000

Bradbury Lane
HEDNESFORD

Stunning three bedroom semi detached house / Finish to high specification throughout / Undergone extensive renovation & refurbishment / Good sized lounge / UPVC conservatory

Offers in Excess of £170,000

Fieldhouse Road
HEDNESFORD

Well presented three bedroom semi detached house / Spacious lounge & sitting room / Conservatory overlooking charming landscaped rear garden / Superb hot tub room

£160,000

Hednesford Road
HEATH HAYES

Extremely spacious three bedroom detached character property / Modern method of auction / Set on a large plot / Ideal for investors / Large rear garden stretching over 45 metres

Auction Guide Price £160,000

Stevens Drive
HEDNESFORD

Well presented two bedroom semi detached house / Set in quiet cul-de-sac location / NO ONWARD CHAIN & VACANT POSSESSION / Low maintenance tiered private rear garden

£145,000

Brooklyn Road
HEATH HAYES

Three bedroom semi detached house / Set down quiet cul-de-sac

£135,000

Whitby Way
CANNOCK

Well presented two bedroom semi detached house / Set on large corner plot / With front, rear & side gardens / Spacious lounge & kitchen-diner / Modern fitted shower room & driveway

Offers in Excess of £125,000

Knights Court, Bettys Lane
NORTON CANES

Well presented two bedroom semi detached mews / Ideal for first time buyers & investors / Modern fitted kitchen & bathroom / Off road parking / Garden to front & side

£125,000

Broadway
HEDNESFORD

Traditional three bedroom semi detached house / NO ONWARD CHAIN / IDEAL FOR INVESTORS / Large private rear garden / Driveway with parking for two vehicles

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NEW

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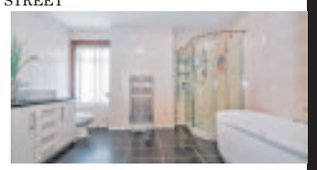
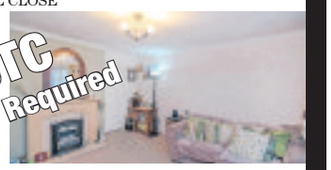
STATION STREET



- Lounge,
- Dining Room,
- Refitted Kitchen,
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom.
- Gardens
- Driveway
- Carport

£154,950

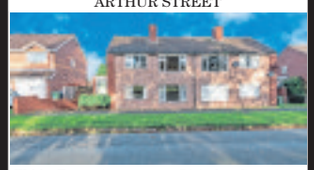
HEATH HAYES
FOXHILL CLOSE



- Entrance Porch,
- Lounge,
- Dining Room,
- Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom,
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Driveway

£149,950

WIMBLEBURY
ARTHUR STREET



Webbs Estate Agents are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £67,500 for 54 Arthur Street.

Anyone wishing to place an offer on

£62,000

NEW

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CASA MIA COURT

- Hednesford Town Centre
- Ground Floor Appartment
- One Bedroom
- Open Plan Lounge/ diner/kitchen
- Three Piece

£75,000

NEW

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BRADBURY LANE

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- Spacious Lounge Diner,
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Front And

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WALSALL ROAD

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- Dining Room,
- Kitchen,
- Utility Area
- Two Bedrooms
- Attic Bedroom
- Spacious Bathroom.
- Offered With

£134,950

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Home modernised throughout

A home having an eclectic combination of traditional design with contemporary styling, 81 Winchester Road, Wolverhampton, is a beautifully presented property.

A pleasure to view, it has been recently modernised and is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners Estate Agents at £180,000. Located within easy reach of the city centre, this three-bedroom semi-detached property is conveniently positioned for access to retail outlets and excellent commuter network. The property has recently undergone a major overhaul throughout.

WOLVERHAMPTON

£180,000

Outside, there is off-road parking to the front and a pleasant rear garden.

Contact DB Roberts & Partners on 01902 427257 or visit www.dbroberts.co.uk

Attractive two-bedroom mid-terraced property in pleasant location

This attractive two-double-bedroom mid-terraced property in Studley Road, Finchfield, Wolverhampton, lies in a pleasant position in a sought after location.

It is for sale through Steventon Estates at £147,950 with no chain.

It lies in a popular area which has a range of general amenities within the area including shops, excellent schools and public transport services.

The property has extremely generous living accommodation which has been maintained and decorated to a high standard and has a number of pleasing features throughout.

Internal inspection is strongly recommended to fully appreciate this property.

FINCHFIELD

£147,950

It has gas central heatin, majority double glazing, a tiled covered porch, a side covered porch with door access into the breakfast kitchen, an entrance hall, a through living room, an L-shaped fitted breakfast kitchen, two double bedrooms, a white bathroom suite with a shower and a separate toilet, a front driveway and a pleasant enclosed rear garden.

Contact Steventon Estates on 01902 753131 or visit www.steventon-estates.co.uk

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MOTORING | Your 7-page guide to the best cars on the market

Good-looking tourer has everything you

Call them station wagons, shooting brakes, travellers, tourers or just plain estate cars, the essential element of them all is a practical, good sized, easy access boot and the new Vauxhall Insignia Country Tourer fulfils that requirement to the tune of 1,665 litres.

Add to that decent ride and handling, comfortable, spacious interior, a feisty engine, a comprehensive standard spec list and a starting price of £25,635 and there is no reason why the good-looking Country Tourer shouldn't do well for Vauxhall.

By offering just two diesel engines and two transmissions, Vauxhall has decluttered the selection process considerably.

The robust 2.0litre turbo charged 170ps diesel Blue Injection unit with the six-speed manual gearbox, returning an official average 51.4mpg in tests while puthering out CO2 emissions at the rate of 145g/km, will be available from launch this month.

Opt for the 4x4 version (with manual transmission only) and the average fuel consumption drops to 43.5mpg with 172g/km of CO2 emissions. The even more powerful 2.0litre bi-turbo 210ps will arrive in December/January.

Vauxhall's new eight-speed automatic transmission proved to be well matched to the 170ps unit delivering power smoothly on demand. Fuel consumption and emission figures are less painful than might be expected with a 47.1mpg average and 157g/km.

Given the expected rugged nature of its automotive life, Country Tourer designers have added off-road cladding in the form of all-round black protective cladding, silver front and rear skid plates, and additional ground clearance, making mud and ruts far less hazardous.

On the road, the standard FlexRide adaptive chassis set-up makes for a comfortable ride. It adapts the dampers, steering, throttle response and shift points (on the automatic transmission) according to the mode selected – standard, sport or tour. Although this system can also be experienced on others in the Insignia range, the parameters for the Country Tourer have been set up with off-roading in mind.

Country Tourer designers have added off-road cladding in the form of protective cladding, skid plates and extra ground clearance

Dig a little deeper for the 4x4 option (starting at £27,235) and you'll gain AWD with torque vectoring, enabling a more exact transmission of power to each wheel. The system reacts within a split-second when the accelerator is pressed, keeping the car stable and easier to control in every situation.

That all important rear access can be achieved via an automatic tailgate – but at an additional cost of £380. With seats in place the boot space is 560 litres. Standard roof rails will take a further 100kg, making the Country Tourer a very practical vehicle.

As with its Grand Sport and Sports Tourer siblings, it is available with a number of technologies and driver assistance systems as standard.

One such is Vauxhall OnStar which not only alerts the emergency services in the event of a collision but will also allow occupants to book hotel rooms, locate service stations, parking space and the like.

Up to seven devices can be connected to the Wi-Fi Hotspot.

Standard spec includes 18-inch alloys, front and rear parking sensors, all-round power windows, sat nav, eight-inch colour touch screen, six air bags, keyless entry and start.

If you are in the market for a good-looking, well-equipped, practical estate, at a reasonable price, the Insignia Country Tourer should be on your shortlist.

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62 Reg VAUXHALL ASTRA SRi 1.3 CDTi.
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62 Reg **HYUNDAI ix20 ACTIVE 1.4** *Met Blue, P/S, C/L, E/W, A/C, Alloys* £5799

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52 Reg **MERCEDES CLK 240** *Metallic Silver, Grey Leather, P/S, C/L, E/W, A/C, Alloys* £2999

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4x4

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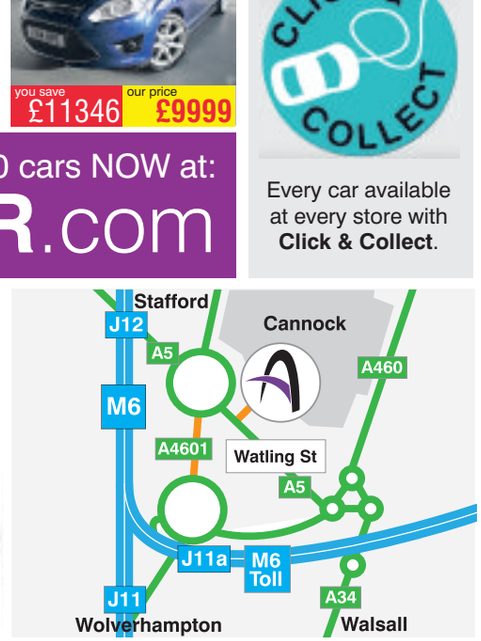

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Ford has made buying a Mondeo simpler with fewer model variants

New Mondeo is easier on pocket

By Ian Donaldson

Ford has tried to make life simpler – and cheaper – for anyone who fancies a new Mondeo.

Simpler, by cutting the previous seven model variants to five and easier on the pocket, especially for the company car drivers who make up the vast majority Mondeo drivers, by cutting list prices by up to £3,200.

Not that simple, in fact, with the new Mondeo range stretching to 75 versions, taking in four-door saloon, five-door hatchback and estate and powered by diesel or petrol engines, or a petrol/electric hybrid.

Oh, and don't forget manual or automatic transmissions and the possibility of all-wheel drive.

Reflect

As to the price cuts; perhaps they now reflect the sort of discount you'd have already been able to wangle from your dealer in a private sale. More importantly, they lower the benefit in kind (BIK) pinned on a company car user.

Take the cheapest new Mondeo, a £19,455 Zetec 1.0T Ecoboost hatchback (hardly anyone will) and a company car user will be massaged a gentle £70.51 a month in BIK if they're a 20 per cent taxpayer.

At the other end of the Mondeo scale, a £32,695 Vignale Estate with 2.0 diesel engine, auto gears and all-wheel drive (another ultra rare combination) will hit its 40 per cent taxpayer user for £324.40 a month.

Whichever new Mondeo you end up with it will now certainly come with DAB, cruise control, satellite navigation, front and rear parking sensors and automatic emergency city braking, this latter feature responsible for a two or three group drop in insurance ratings, thanks to a lowered likelihood of bent bumpers.

Ford thinks private buyers will fancy a Mondeo in ST-Line trim, which adds £3,500 over the cost of an entry level Zetec but includes larger (18ins) alloy wheels, mildly lowered and stiffened suspension, front sports-style seats with red stitching, alloy foot pedals and a dark headliner.

They're in addition to a styling kit that marks out an ST-Line car thanks to unique bumpers front and rear and lower side panels in body colour. Inside, you'll also discover smart velour floor mats, a push button starter and more red stitching to steering wheel, centre console and side trims.

The interior is neat and orderly

There are manual and automatic transmission options

Out on the road in a highly spec'd ST-Line, costing £26,595 and boasting automatic gears and all-wheel drive, you notice how much of the latest Mondeo stays unchanged – and are thankful for it. Things start off well with a perfect driving position and set of clear instruments ahead of you and continue in similar fashion as you discover a car that rides the rougher streets of London with well damped aplomb.

The interior is neat and orderly but doesn't give off the posh car ambience that points people to dearer cars like an Audi but holds its own against an obvious competitor in the equally roomy shape of Vauxhall's Insignia.

A range-topping Vignale version tried later was quieter still and presented a more modern and crisply digital instrument cluster but still wouldn't worry an Audi for instant interior appeal.

Still, you won't have trouble beating 40mpg in your diesel Mondeo and the taxman won't think Christmas has arrived when he ask for your Exchequer contribution.

Based on the new Rio hatchback and built in Korea, the Stonic is offered in a smaller number of versions

Stonic fills the little SUV role with style

By Ian Donaldson

Nobody needs a watch the size of a coffee cup's saucer or a handbag you'd have trouble checking in as Ryanair cabin baggage, but lots of people want both of them – although probably not the same people.

And nobody really needs a smallish car that looks as though it could wade streams and shrug off life in the depth of a forest, even if it would drown with the first challenge and pine for its mummy on the other.

No, people want a small SUV because they think it looks good. Not for them the dull practicality of a mere hatchback; not when they want to be seen as adventurous types who stand out from the crowd.

And just at the moment the world can't make enough small SUVs. Sales in Europe alone are expected to double to more than two million annually in the four years leading to 2020. And these are cars with buyers driven by desire, not bargain hunters desperate for a discount.

It means they'll happily pay a premium for the car of their dreams. And that makes the car manufacturers anxious to provide them with something to buy…

Enter the Kia Stonic, the South Korean car maker's first entry to the small SUV segment and a new baby sibling to the firm's biggest seller by far in the UK, the Sportage. The name is a mix of 'speedy' and 'tonic', if you were wondering.

Based on the new Rio small hatchback and built alongside it in Korea, the Stonic is offered in a smaller number of versions and aimed at buyers with a bit more to spend – there's a premium of around £2,000 if you choose Stonic over Rio.

For the extra cash you'll have a car that is a bit longer and wider than the Rio (now 4,140mm and 1,760mm respectively) but, crucially, 70mm taller and with a bit more ground clearance thrown in too. It means a car that fills its little-SUV role with style, even if there is no 4x4 version because hardly anyone would buy it.

Instead, there's a car that gives a buyer the chance to personalise their purchase with two-tone paint, picking out roof, door mirror casings and spoiler in contrasting colours, and choice of a pair of trim levels.

You will also find a dashboard that borrows heavily from the Rio, so it's crisply finished, logically set out and very easy to read but a bit dull and black. The top version is lightened a little by splashes of add-on colour, but the interior remains more practical (and reasonably roomy front and rear and in the boot) than inspiring.

The dashboard is crisply finished and logically set out

You can tell the Stonic was honed on European roads

Kicking off the Stonic range is the £16,295 car in '2' grade with a 1.4 litre 98bhp petrol engine. It will reach 107mph, hit 62mph in 12.2 seconds and travel 51.4 miles on a gallon in the official test, while putting out 125g/km of CO2 in the process. It is expected to be a modest seller, despite a kit count that includes 17ins alloy wheels, air conditioning, all-round electric windows, Bluetooth with voice recognition, rear parking sensors and a six-speaker sound system with steering wheel mounted controls.

The First Edition Stonics, from £19,695, add two-tone paint with a contrasting roof, smart key entry, auto air con, heated front seats and steering wheel and splashes of chrome on window trim and door handles.

Next engine up is a three-cylinder turbocharged petrol unit with 118bhp and a 115mph top speed and 9.9 seconds to 62mph time, backed up with 56.5mpg and 115g/km in the official tests. It costs £16,995 and the £700 premium over the entry-level car makes it look the bargain of the bunch. Out on a varied test route it delighted with sharp steering and a well controlled ride once out of town, where it turns a bit too firm, to produce a car that made you want to keep on driving, enjoying a snick-snick gear change along the way.

A dash readout of 45.2mpg cemented the impression of a car that punches above its weight.

For another £800 you can move to a 1.6 litre 108bhp diesel, offering 112mph/10.9 seconds and 67.3mpg and 109g/km.

Driving the same test route saw 53.9mpg at journey's end – an expected economy boost from the diesel power unit but in a car that felt heavier and much less inclined to enjoy itself.

In either car you can tell the Kia Stonic (designed mostly in Europe) was also honed on roads in the same part of the world and for drivers who value driving enjoyment a bit more highly than soggy-springed comfort. And quite right too.

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Vauxhall's Grandland X is very well put together

Grandland X has a robust stance, with accentuated wheel arches and a wide front grille

By Carmel Stewart

The Grandland X is an important vehicle for Vauxhall, completing as its does the company's crossover trio of SUVs which began with the mid-sized 4WD Mokka X, followed by the compact 2WD Crossland X.

You would be forgiven for thinking that the Daddy of the range was a robust 4x4 but, in fact, it comes in 2WD only with an optional electronic grip control which adapts the torque distribution for optimum traction, depending on which of the driving modes has been selected – normal, snow mud or sand.

Similar in styling to the slightly smaller Mokka X, the Grandland X has a robust stance, with accentuated wheel arches and a wide front grille with a sill plate below plus slim LEDs front and rear. A high waist and chrome highlights add an aerodynamic appeal.

Inside where there is space enough for five occupants, the driving position is elevated, the modern, well laid-out dash uncomplicated and the ambient lighting tastefully sufficient.

At the rear there is 514 litres of easy-load boot space which ups to 1,652 litres with the rear seat backs dropped down.

Engine choices are confined to two turbo units – a 1.2litre 130ps three-cylinder turbo petrol and a 1.6litre 120ps four-cylinder turbo diesel. Both can

Getting connected is easy in Grandland X

be combined with either a six-speed manual or six-speed automatic transmission. Selection will come down to personal preference, with the diesel returning an official average of 70.6mpg mpg and the petrol 54.4mpg on 17-inch wheels. More engine options will be added next year.

On the road there are no real highs or lows. The ride is comfortable, the cabin quiet, the engines more than adequate, although the suspension is not as all absorbing as some of its rivals.

The Grandland X, while not exciting to drive, is well put together with a very decent standard spec. It will deliver its occupants to their required destination in unruffled comfort but it is entering into a very tough SUV market place which has doubled in size during the past six or seven years. Its rivals are long-established, so Vauxhall will need to sharpen its automotive elbows if it is to make an impact with this model.

But the newness of the Grandland X can also be considered a plus as many buyers like to drive the latest model and it is following in the tyre treads of the increasingly popular Mokka X.

Its specification list includes all the driving aids of any self-respecting modern vehicle: automatic cruise control with pedestrian detection and automatic emergency braking, driver drowsiness alert, and advanced park assist plus the option of a heated steering wheel, heated front and rear seats and smart tailgate, that opens with a flick of the foot.

All that, oh so vital, fingertip connectivity is also available through Vauxhall On Star, so you not only have automatic crash response alerting the emergency services should the airbags be deployed but can also book an hotel room, find a parking space and charge your smartphone wirelessly as well as access emails, phone messages, Google maps and the like thanks to the Apple CarPlay and Android Auto integration.

Prices start at £22,310 with LED daytime running lights, camera-based lane departure warning, road sign recognition, sat nav, eight-inch touch screen and air con all fitted as standard.

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A dramatic new look inside and out

By James Parker

Škoda has announced pricing and specifications for the Kodiaq SportLine – the next exciting addition to the brand's multi-award-winning SUV range.

Set to deliver a sporting edge to the line-up, the SportLine model will be offered with six different engine and transmission options to provide customers with the broadest possible choice.

First unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show earlier this year, the SportLine model has been created to appeal to drivers who like the dynamic look of Škoda's performance models, but require the practicality of a full-size SUV with the ability to carry up to seven passengers.

The car features 20-inch Vega Anthracite alloy wheels

SportLine has a choice of four engines

The latest addition to Škoda's award-winning SUV range will deliver a sporting edge to the line-up

Design

Available to order now, the new SportLine models are priced from £32,685 and are positioned between the SE L and Edition models in the expanded line-up.

In keeping with other SportLine models in the Škoda range, the Kodiaq version features a full design package that includes 20-inch Vega Anthracite alloy wheels, deeper front and rear sport bumpers.

The exterior design package is completed with a number of additional black details, including the radiator grille, roof rails, door mirror housings and side window trims.

Inside, the Kodiaq SportLine gains a leather sports steering wheel, carbon effect dashboard and door inserts, along with Alcantara-trimmed sports bucket seats and door panels.

An LED interior lighting pack, SportLine plaque and black trim complete the interior design package.

The Kodiaq SportLine is available with four engines; two petrol and two diesel, with power outputs ranging from 150PS to 190PS. All four are equipped with Škoda's acclaimed four-wheel drive transmission as standard, with DSG gearbox fitted as standard on the 2.0 TSI 180PS and 2.0 TDI 190PS. Both the 1.4 TSI 150PS and 2.0 TDI 150PS engines are available with the choice of manual or DSG.

In terms of equipment, the SportLine models build on the already generously appointed SE L specification, and feature seven seats, Columbus infotainment system with 9.2" touchscreen display and integrated Wi-Fi, electrically operated boot and Drive mode select.

Among the many features exclusive to the SportLine are a colour multifunction trip computer, front parking sensors and an electrically adjustable driver's seat.

The first deliveries of the new Kodiaq SportLine are expected next month.

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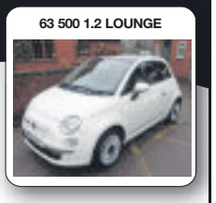
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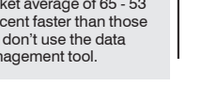

Renault announces pricing for new petrol engine in Scénics

Renault's Scénic and Grand Scénic will be the first models to get the TCe engine

Renault has announced UK pricing for the new direct injection turbocharged petrol engine that will first launch in the Scénic and Grand Scénic line-up. The new Energy TCe engine will be offered in other models from 2018. Pricing for the new engine in the Scénic line-up starts from £22,005 on-the-road. Orders for the new Scénic and Grand Scénic with Energy TCe 115 and TCe 140 outputs are now open with first customer deliveries expected during February.

This new engine offers a significant improvement in driving pleasure, with increased torque at low revs and greater and constant availability at high revs, while reducing fuel consumption and CO2 emissions.

The new 1.3-litre petrol engine, coupled with manual and EDC dual-clutch automatic transmissions, incorporates several recent Alliance-developed innovations, including Bore Spray Coating which improves efficiency by reducing friction and optimising heat transfer. Other technologies enhance driving enjoyment and reduce fuel consumption and CO2 emissions: the pressure of the direct fuel injection has been raised to 250 bar and a specific combustion chamber design optimises the fuel/air mix. In addition, 'Dual Variable Timing Camshaft' technology controls the intake and exhaust valves according to engine loads. The result is increased torque at low revs with more available linearly at high revs, for a benefit in driving comfort and better mid-range response.

The Energy TCe 140 engine has a CO2 output of 122g/km (125g/km for Grand Scénic) and achieves 52.3mpg (NEDC combined cycle) (51.4mpg for Grand Scénic). The TCe 140 engine receives 240Nm of torque at 1,600 rpm. Meanwhile, the Energy TCe 115 – available in manual transmission only – has 220Nm of torque at 1,500 rpm with CO2 emissions of 122g/km (125g/km for Grand Scénic) and achieves 52.3mpg (NEDC combined) (50.4mpg for Grand Scénic). These figures result in a reduction in CO2 by 7 grams on Scénic and 11 grams on Grand Scénic compared to the previous petrol units.

The Scénic and Grand Scénic are the first Renault models to benefit from this new petrol engine. The Scénic range is also available in three diesel power outputs – dCi 110 (from £22,565 OTR), dCi 130 (from £23,605 OTR) and dCi 160 (from £29,305 OTR). The dCi 110 engine is also available as a Hybrid Assist version with a 10kW electric motor powered by a 48-volt 150Wh battery (from £25,055 OTR).

Fastest selling used car

The Ford Kuga took an average of 20 days to sell

Data from Auto Trader revealed that the 2016 Ford Kuga (petrol manual) was the fastest selling used car in November, taking an average of just 20 days to sell.

It marks the second consecutive month a Ford has topped the national top ten list (the 2016 Ford Ka was October's fastest selling) and the second time since November 2016 a Blue Oval has made it to the number one position.

The Kuga was followed into second and third place by the 2015 Hyundai ix35 (petrol manual), and the 2014 Hyundai i10 (petrol manual), which both took an average of 21 days to leave UK forecourts. It was a strong month for Hyundai. The national top 10 also featured two other entries from the South Korean manufacturer; the 2015 Hyundai Tucson (diesel manual), and the 2014 Hyundai i30 (petrol manual), which both took an average of 24 days to sell.

Hitting targets will always be determined by how quickly a dealer can turn their stock around and using data is the key to speeding it up.

Users of i-Control, Auto Trader's data management solution, took an average of just 30 days to sell a car in November, compared to a market average of 65 - 53 per cent faster than those that don't use the data management tool.

The T-Roc has a higher ground clearance than most hatchbacks to allow it to use its off-road capability

An impressive package from VW in new T-Roc

By John Griffiths

Another test drive, another compact SUV or crossover – you might think Volkswagen has come late to the party with its latest model, the T-Roc.

VW doesn't thnk so. It is in fact predicting the new Golf-sized model will become one of its biggest sellers alongside the Golf itself and the Polo, and with good reason.

Sales of SUV/crossover styled cars are continuing to grow and there's a huge appetite for them among car buyers, with some industry experts predicting they will account for a third of all new sales within a few short years.

The launch of the T-Roc is a logical step, and while it's based on proven Audi/VW mechanicals, electronics and safety systems, it also takes a step towards a little more funky than pure functional design that we associate with German brands.

It's also needed to fill a gap in VW's arsenal, since the Tiguan took a step up in size and cost when the latest model appeared last year. T-Roc will have some help here though – the smaller T-Cross with be here soon as a reinforcement in the sales drive.

The T-Roc's interior is actually a little more roomy than the Golf

Engines

Initially it comes with a choice of three 'TSI' turbocharged petrol engines: 1.0 litre 115PS, 1.5 litre 150PS and 2.0 itre 190PS. Three diesels, with similar power outputs, will follow soon. Prices range from £18,950 for an entry-level 1.0 litre model to £31,845 for a flagship SEL with 2.0 litre engine, a seven-speed DSG automated gearbox and VW's 4MOTION all wheel drive system.

The T-Roc's platform, mechanical components and electrics are enough to inspire confidence as they are familiar from many other models in the VW range.

But it is different: the wide, bold grille hints at its big brother, the Tiguan, but the sculpted shape, unique LED lights and, of you want it, two tone colours (the roof contrasting with the body) are new territory for VW. There are 28 colour combinations to choose from.

The interiors, too, are available with contrasting trim colours, while the controls and dash are typically VW, including on higher grade models the interactive digital dashboard supplementing the central colour touchscreen.

For me, an important aspect of the overall design is that it doesn't look like a typical SUV: more like a good-sized hatchback, taller yes (on 17 or 18 inch wheels) but its sleek and rather sporty shape disguises this well, while retaining its inherent advantages of good visibility and high 'hip height' for the seats, enabling easier access. It's a great example of combining style with functionality.

VW is predicting that three quarters of T-Roc sales will be to private buyers (as opposed to fleet) and the most popular model will be the SE, one trim level up from the entry-level S.

That means only a small percentage are expected to go for all-wheel drive as this is only available with top-spec, 2.0 litre models. That means the most expensive models, too, which is a shame since it is an excellent system although I'm sure there are technical and marketing reasons to support the decision.

The T-Roc has a higher ground clearance than most hatchbacks to allow it to use its off-road capability, with a rotary dial to select two on and two off-road modes (adjusting throttle and auto gear response and so on).

It certainly proved sure-footed in freezing conditions during the wintry Oxfordshire test, and would no doubt help you keep going in snow.

The two-wheel drive versions don't disappoint, however with the variable electric power steering helping the driver tackle winding B-roads with precision. The extra ground clearace doesn't detract from the Golf-like experience (there's no rock and roll).

The 2.0 litre is almost GTi-like (7.2 seconds to 62mph) while the 1.5 is not far behind with 8.3 seconds.

But I suspect many who take a test drive will be impressed with the 1.0-litre three cylinder TSI – a remarkable power plant I've driven in the Golf itself, a couple of SEAT's and the Skoda Octavia.

If you recall normally aspirated 1.0 litre cars of even five years ago, forget it. Clear your mind. It might be a fraction slower off the mark but 10.1 seconds to 62mph is fast enough for most of us in real world conditions. And thanks to turbocharging boosting torque to 200Nm – plus a well-matched, six-speed gearbox – overtaking isn't a problem and it makes light work of motorway cruising, with noise levels as low as its bigger stablemates.

It never feels as if it's a struggle, and of course it is the most frugal of the petrol engines, capable of averaging more than 55mpg, has the lowest CO2 rating (116g/km) and, for company car drivers, the lowest benefit in kind tax rate.

The T-Roc's interior is actually a little more roomy than the Golf, particularly where headroom is concerned, and will seat five adults. Luggage is well catered for, with 445 litres of space rising to 1,290 litres with the rear seats folded.

The on-board systems, only a short while ago confined to top spec Audis, are state-of-the art. There's a central colour touchscreen for satnav, connectivity, Bluetooth, audi and smartphone apps, but then there's the digital interactive driver's display as well on higher grade models. It allows you to select a combination of speed, revs and trip information or a large version of the navigation maps nearer to the driver's eyeline.

The T-Roc combines traditional VW values with contemporary styling inside and out, balancing the fundamentals of SUV ownership such as height and visibility with a car whose' 'footprint' is no larger than an average hatchback – no need to dodge catcalls like 'Chelsea tractor' on the school run.

It drives well enough, too, to justify a description pf the GTi of the SUV world.

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FreeAds

IT'S FREE IT'S EASY

For items up to **£250**

VISIT:

bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

Simply press the free ad icon.
Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock.
Private advertisers only.

Place a paid for advert

By Phone 01902 317878
8.30am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri.
Closed Sat/Sun and Bank Holidays

Online
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

In person
At your local Express & Star Office. Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm Monday - Friday for the next day's advertisement or also before 3.00pm Friday for Monday's advertisement.

1 Family

Elderly & Disabled

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

Bikes

JACKSON-HATELEY CYCLES
www.jacksonhateleycycles.co.uk
MASSIVE JANUARY SALE STARTS TODAY
Some models to clear at cost price
Get your fantastic bargain now.
All cycles built and guaranteed with a 24 hour repair service
All spares and accessories at discount price
HATELEY'S
Simply the best
Ring Dave on
01902 782344
458 Stafford Road, Oxley, Wolverhampton

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

holidays

Devon

PAIGNTON
The Kingswinford
December - January Offers:
2 nights, 2 people B&B
ONLY £99
Room only available
FAMILY ROOMS AVAILABLE
CHILD DISCOUNTS
All rooms en suite
100 yards to beach and pier
Contractors Welcome
01803 558358
www.kingswinfordhotel.com

Self Catering Holidays

SELF-CATERING LODGE holidays on Award Winning Rural Holiday Park near Staffordshire /Shropshire Border. Please visit www.oaklandholidaypark.co.uk or call us on 01902 851302.

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

mind, body & soul

Massage

THE TANNING ROOMS
Full body massage 30 mins £22, 40 mins £27, 1 hour £37
SHOWER FACILITIES
Call: 01902 782960

3 Home & Services

Furniture

katharine house hospice
Reg charity number: 1011712
Furniture not sold, why not donate it?
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01543 466885
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

In Your Garden

SLABS 450mm x 450mm RIVEN FACED, only £1.87 inc. VAT. Ranton Building Supplies: 01543 276006.

Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Items Wanted

CASH PAID NOW! WANTED TOOLS
Hand Tools, Anything considered
01543 452 491
07539 340307

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID
for antiques, vintage furniture, leather-winged arm chairs & chesterfield setees.
01902 454144 or 0121 5263375

✔ CASH PAID ✔
£300+ PER OUNCE
FOR 9 CARAT GOLD.
ANY AMOUNT COLLECTED!
HOUSE CLEARANCES!
*gold coins, **pre - 47 silver** coins, **watches**, costume jewellery, porcelain, any **oriental items**, old brass items, any silver items, War **medals** military etc.*
Lady Buyer
Call: 01922 495066 or 07971 783206

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

Antiques

Louis Taylor
Fine Art Auctioneers & Valuers
Antique valuations first Wednesday of every month, 10am - 2pm
Ancient High House Museum, Stafford, ST16 2JA
01782 638100

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras, TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!

"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"
Bill - TV Link
For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

specialists at your service

Aerials

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"
Steve - AA Digital Aerials
For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

ANTIQUES WANTED
Furniture, Clocks, China, Medals, Coins, Old wind-up Wrist and Pocket Watches Paintings, Gold/Silver/Costume Jewellery
CHASE ANTIQUES
(Over 40 Years Trading)
01543 572367 07831 818024

CELEBRATING SUCCESS
Express & Star BUSINESS AWARDS 2018
Could you be Tradesperson of the Year?
To find out how, go to:
businessawards.expressandstar.com

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Building Supplies

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

Carpet Fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

Double Glazing Repairs

S.P.S replace misted glass, locks, hinges, windows, doors, guaranteed. OAP discount. 07983 704889

Driveways & Patios

P.W DRIVEWAYS
The Block Paving Specialists.
Patios, Driveways, Pathways etc.
SPECIAL OFFER £50 PSM (DECEMBER ONLY)
Free Quotes & Advice
0800 747 1435

Fencing

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."
Michael- Portway Fencing
For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

BUSHBURY FENCING AND GATES
SUPPLY AND FITTING SPECIALISTS
FREE QUOTES
01902 827000

Gardening Services

GARDEN KINGS All Garden work and maintenance, Fencing, Tree cutting, Turfing and much more. Call: Steve for free quote. 07774449900 / 01902 238653.

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

OAKTREE TREE SERVICES
Covers all aspects of tree surgery, grass cutting and hedges. Garden clearances, turfing and fencing
07427 060382

Gas Fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

House Clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE
Professional family run business
House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

Painters/ Decorators

DECORACE Painter & Decorator. Quality work at reasonable prices. OAP discounts. Free quotes: 01902 635258 07876 135302.

LADY PAINTER & DECORATOR City and guild qualified, local, reliable, affordable. 07916 399490.

Kitchen Fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER
- Over 20 years' experience in kitchen fitting & project managing.
- Specialist in fitting all retail kitchens.
- Very competitive price.
- Quick quotes over the phone can be given if preferred.
- Supply now available!

CONTACT MATT ON 07881 654 757 or 01543 373 233

Plans Prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

Plastering

MINT PLASTERING
For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200
30 years experience.
Free quotes. All work guaranteed
01543 327130 / 07519 694516

M&S PLASTERING & BUILDING SERVICES
Home/Garden Improvements.
Over 30 Years Experience
Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

Plumbing & Heating

TAD PLUMBING & HEATING
For all your plumbing needs.
30 years experience
24 HOUR CALL OUT, NO FEE!
Call Trevor on 07791 319397
www.tadplumbingandheatingwolverhampton.co.uk

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call Will for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS. LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

Upholstery

MR B'S UPHOLSTERY
RE- UPHOLSTERING OF SOFA'S, DINING FURNITURE, CARAVANS, CAR RETRIMS AND MORE.
www.mrbsupholstery.co.uk
01543 500677 07738 851601

Express & Star
DECORATORS!
CLAIM YOUR FREE ADVERT
(T&Cs Apply)
Call Claire Smith: 01902 319661
claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk

4 Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

5 Business & Farming

Business Opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

6 Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

We buy houses
Sell your house fast
- avoid repossession
- behind on payments
- job relocation
- unwanted inheritance
What more - we buy in any condition
No estate agent fees
We pay all your legal fees
ACT NOW !
Contact us on : 07796 801219 / 07988 882090

7 Jobs

Part Time - General

JAYMAN ESTATE AGENTS

are looking to recruit experienced full time and part time sales negotiators to join our growing Cannock team.

The right candidate must be target driven, possess excellent customer service skills and have their own car to complete viewings.

CV and cover letter to

Mark Chatterfield at

mark.chatterfield@jayman.co.uk

PART TIME
GARDENER / HANDYPERSON
Cannock Centre.
Pretty garden - mostly shrubs.
6 hours Tuesday at £8 p.h.
Call 07852 153130

Full Time General

Acuity
UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS

Acuity Unified Communications is a hosted telecommunications and IT provider. Due to another successful year we are looking to recruit the following positions to join our growing Stafford office in the New Year.

Microsoft Office Support Engineer £21,000 - £24,000 per annum, company pension scheme, company car and private medical insurance.

You will be responsible for answering IT support calls from our customers, so good communication skills are required. Also, knowledge of the following:

- Powershell for Active Directory / Exchange / 0365 configuration for management and diagnostics.
- Experience of group / user / system policy management.
- Office 365 suite of product migration and administration
- MS SQL database management
- Data security (GDRP / AV / encryption)

Although mainly office based you will be expected to attend customer sites on call outs and customer meetings. As a company car will be provided you will have a clean driving licence. The role would suit someone who is currently in Customer support but looking for the next career progression and eager to take on more responsibility.

Part time Marketing Assistant. £21,000 per annum (pro rata based on 20 hours per week)

Also based in the Stafford Office we are looking to hire a part time marketing assistant to work with the Managing Director and Marketing Advisors. The role will include but not limited to:

- Marketing Literature development
- Developing designs for our own website
- Branding strategy
- On-line marketing and social media management
- Assisting sales staff with acquisition marketing campaigns
- Management of lead generation organisations.

Would suit someone who is looking to come back into a Marketing role after taking a break, but does not want to work full time. Will require travel to our head office in Caterham Surrey once a month.
Please send covering letter and resume to recruit@acuityuc.com.

CV MATCHING. IT'S QUICK, EASY AND FREE
Real opportunities for you
jobs.expressandstar.com
REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

Bostik
smart adhesives

Site Safety and Environmental Officer - Stafford Site

We are looking to recruit an experienced Site Safety and Environmental Officer for our Stafford site.

The role is hands on, and factory based, so excellent communication skills are a must in order to guide and influence the people around you. You will be expected to have and to demonstrate the necessary drive, determination and enthusiasm to deliver results working closely with department managers, and their teams.

In this role you will be involved with the management of both Industrial Safety, (Personal injury prevention) and Process Safety.

The job holder should be qualified to NEBOSH Diploma level or equivalent, be a member of IOSH, with experience and knowledge of hazardous chemicals and controlling work in explosive atmospheres.

Our preferred candidate would have a minimum of 5 years experience from a similar chemical manufacturing background.

You must be computer literate (e.g. PowerPoint, Word, Excel etc) with strong oral and written communication skills and an excellent attention to detail.

In return you will be offered a valued place within an enthusiastic UK team, part of a successful global organisation

Please send your CV to Nicola.walker@bostik.com

Properties Wanted

Yes! HOMEBUYERS
THE EASY WAY TO SELL YOUR HOUSE
We Buy Houses For Cash
Free Valuation? Yes! No Fees? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
Fast Sale? Yes! Any House? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!
Get your FREE, instant cash offer today!
The Property Ombudsman
Call 01543 547 807
or text "Cash" to 66777 yeshomebuyers.com

8 Motoring

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Cars Under £1500

BARGAIN
FORD FOCUS
Black, excellent runner, leather interior, heated seats, 8 months MoT, 62,000 miles
£450.
07910 953256.

Scrap Vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

spares & accessories

Vehicles Wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

Mobile Mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

MB MOTORS MOBILE MECHANIC
• MOT'S • Diagnostics
• Servicing • Air con
• Tyres • Auto Electrics
07809 871733
mbmotorsstaffordshire.co.uk
mbmotors@outlook.com

MOT's

MOTs ONLY £19.50
formula one autocentres
CANNOCK WS11 0BN
01543 50 20 00
F1AUTOCENTRES.COM

9 Local Information

Public Notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience youmay fax any advertising requirements to

Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

MERCY JACKSON (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 49 Heath Street Hednesford Cannock WS12 4BP, who died on 20/10/2017 are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 09/03/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
PREMIER SOLICITORS
Premier House Lurke Street
Bedford MK40 3HU
T519089

MARGARET NEWEY (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 5 WEDGEWOOD CLOSE, BURNTWOOD WS7 9HT, who died on 08/09/2017, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 06/03/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
MATTHEW NEWEY,
1 HOWARD CLOSE,
PLYMOUTH PL5 2UD.

highways england

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14(1)(a) THE M6 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 12, STAFFORDSHIRE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) has made an Order on the M6 Motorway, in the County of Staffordshire, to allow bridge inspection works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close the slip road leading to the northbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 12.

The work will be carried out over one night between 22:00 hours and 06:00 hours and is expected to start on Tuesday 9 January 2018. The Order will come into force on Friday 5 January 2018.

Vehicles being used for police, fire and rescue authority, ambulance or traffic officer purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works or for winter maintenance purposes will be exempt from the closure.

A diversion route via M6 Junction 11 will be signed.

For further information please contact Dennis Wheeler on 0300 470 3455.

Karen Eustace, an Officer in Highways England Company Limited.

Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

10 Personals

Personal

THE GREENHOUSE SPA
For gay/ bisexual men.
Jaccuzi and restrooms on site.
TV's & ladyboys welcome
Friday evenings.
Open 7 days pw.
2 mins J9 /J10 M6.
0121 5686126
www.gay-sauna.com

BOOK YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS OR FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLINE AT
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk
and become one of hundreds of customers who regularly receive exclusive special offers & discounts.
ClassifiedAds

Buy and sell with ClassifiedsAds

1. Visit our ClassifiedAds website
www.classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk

2. Call our Classified sales team on **01902 317 878**

3. Self Serve - Create your own advert in print and online - visit:
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, **SELL** LOCAL

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

YOUR LOCAL RECRUITMENT SPECIALIST

Express & Star Shropshire STAR jobs.expressandstar.com jobs.shropshirestar.com

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT US...

MNA Recruitment specialise in fixed price recruitment solutions for businesses within the West Midlands. Brought to you by MNA Media, the publisher of the region's biggest selling newspapers Express & Star and Shropshire Star, our expert recruitment team have an unrivalled knowledge of local recruitment within the West Midlands.

AFFORDABLE RECRUITMENT SOLUTIONS

We firmly believe that finding the right candidate for your business shouldn't cost the earth. We're completely up front about our fees, and are proud to offer affordable recruitment solutions to suit your budget. Our experienced team take the time to tailor a package to find your ideal candidate. The price we agree with you is exactly what you pay, no hidden fees.

LOCAL RECRUITMENT SPECIALIST

As part of Britain's largest independent regional news company, MNA Recruitment draw upon a heritage of supporting local businesses in finding the right candidate for more than 140 years. Today, our mix of print, digital and agency solutions allow us to offer the complete recruitment solution for your business.

FIND THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

Whilst we pride ourselves on offering affordable recruitment solutions, we don't scrimp on quality. With access to the latest technology, our team provide high quality candidate screening, ensuring we find you the ideal candidate to fill your vacancy.

DEDICATED ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

For us, customer service is a top priority. We provide all of our customers with a dedicated account manager, who will tailor a recruitment package to suit your budget and find you quality candidates. You will also receive regular performance reports, allowing you to analyse and track candidates.

NOT JUST A RECRUITMENT AGENCY

At MNA Recruitment, we believe that our role doesn't stop when the vacancy is filled. Our expert team can offer your business additional services to support all your employment needs. We provide affordable HR services, training and development programmes for you and your staff.

Find your ideal candidate with MNA Recruitment

MNA Recruitment

51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES
t: 01902 319645
e: sales@mna-recruitment.co.uk

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01543 481329

Email:ollerenshaws@btinternet.com
www.ollerenshaws.co.uk

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www.aerialav.co.uk
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M: 07866 674839

- Free estimate and call out
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- Internet smart TV points
- TV wall installations & bespoke cabling
- Home cinema & audio systems

Freeview sky HDANYWHERE digital freesat

Call Lee Forrester for further information
Tel: 01543 578230 or 01785 290092
Mob: 07866 674839
www.aerialav.co.uk Email: Lee@aerialav.co.uk
READ OUR REVIEWS ON BEST OF CANNOCK

AERIALS
D&D Aerials
Your Local Registered Installer
Call Dave or Mike

Digital Aerials Fitted & Repaired
- Sky - Freesat - Extra Points
- Senior Citizen Discounts
- TV Tuning & setup
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CANNOCK 01543 274777 LONGFORD ROAD WS11 0DF
RUGELEY 01889 587000 BOWER LANE WS15 2RD

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Roman / Roller / Shutters
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4 Vertical Blinds Fitted From ONLY **£189**

Any Genuine Quote Beaten
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32A Cannock Shopping Centre. www.ab-blinds.co.uk

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E: info@repairforcecannock.co.uk
45 Brownhills Road Norton Canes (opposite Co-op)
OPEN: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm Sat 9am-4pm

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A prestigious address for your business.
Confidential, discreet and secure.
The right image at an affordable price.

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★ Electrics and Plumbing ★ Plastering
★ Block Paving

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67 Redwood Drive, Burntwood, Staffordshire
07854 544516 or 01543 672375
Email:nigel@nbbuildingservices.com
www.nbbuildingservices.com

Builders Merchants

Vine Builders Merchants

OVER 10 DIFFERENT TYPES OF BEAUTIFUL DECORATIVE GRAVEL IN STOCK
Washed Concrete Sand £30
Hard Core Mot £30
Ballast £30, Cement £4 per bag
10mm & 20mm Gravel
Timber Sleepers Timber Decking
Fencing, Top Soil
TANALISED TIMBER NOW IN STOCK
BEST QUALITY ARTIFICIAL GRASS IN STOCK
PLASTIC DRAINAGE PIPES & FITTINGS
Walkmill Lane, Bridgtown, Cannock WS11 0LN 01543 579559

Carpentry

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Internal & External Door Suppliers & Fitters

6 internal pre-finished doors fully fitted for £425 complete with handles

External UPVC and composite doors also available

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM
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www.simplydoorswalsall.co.uk
Late night opening Thursdays till 7pm

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Crown ChemDry
Established in 1993 by Barry & Hazel Hicks

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Specialists.
Leather & Curtain Cleaning.
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M1970

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20 years experience
FREE QUOTES
all work guaranteed
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Double Glazing

DOUBLE GLAZING SERVICES

Misted units replaced, lock and general repairs to doors patios and windows. Emergency lock call out. 30 years experience. The longest established and only repair specialist in the area

Call: Mark Capewell
Call 01889 578654 or
Mobile 07802 277935

Driveways

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38 Years Experience
TARMACADAM CONCRETE BLOCK PAVING
LEADING DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL CONTRACTORS COVERING LICHFIELD AND STAFFORDSHIRE
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• Commercial car parks and roads • Vehicle access crossing highway approved
Free quotations - All work guaranteed
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email: westcot.contractors.ltd@gmail.com

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Deaths

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENT CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Please note that the deadline for our weekly Cannock Chronicle is 4pm every Friday, for the following weeks edition.

This is subject to change Bank Holidays.

Eg (4pm Thursday)

Cannock Reception will be closing at 4.30pm on a Friday.

Deaths

KELLY

Alma May

nee Brass

Passed away on December 18, 2017, aged 77 years.

Deeply loved and sadly missed by all.

Gone but never forgotten.

The Requiem Mass will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, at St Joseph's Church, Rugeley at 12 noon, followed by the Burial at Stile Cop Cemetery.

For further details please contact

PHILLIP EMERY

Funeral Directors

Bedford House,

15 Bow Street,

Rugeley.

01889 582274.

GRAY

Michael John

Of Cannock.

Passed away December 4, 2017.

Beloved Husband of Jacqui, Father of Michael, Mark, Anthony, Dominic and Sophie.

Papa Mike to Abigail, Hannah, Georgia, Henry, Isabell, Aiden and Freddie.

Gone before we could say goodbye, we will love and miss you forever.

Funeral Service on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, at Stafford Crematorium, at 11.30am.

No flowers, donations if desired for St Giles Hospice and Newlife.

All inquires c/o

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
70 Church Street, Cannock WS11 1DH
01543 502322

MARTIN

Iris

Sadly passed away on December 18, 2017, aged 71 years.

Iris was much loved and will be missed dearly by all of her Family and Friends.

The Funeral Service will take place on Thursday, January 11, 2018, at St Stephen's Church, Cannock, at 1.45pm, followed by a Committal Service at Stafford Crematorium.

Flowers are welcome.

Donations, if so desired will be much appreciated.

All inquiries c/o

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
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MEARS

Dorothy

Of Chadsmoor.

Passed away in hospital on December 16, 2017 aged 95 years.

Reunited with Husband Bill also a loving Mom, Nan, Great-Grandma and Friend.

Service will be held at St. Chad's Church, Chadsmoor, on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 11.15am. followed by Committal at Bushbury Crematorium.

Flowers or donations to Birmingham Children's Hospital c/o Funeral Directors.

The Funeral care has been entrusted to

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LYCETT

Albert William

Aged 96 years.

Husband of the late Ivy and Father of Wendy and Joan.

Passed away peacefully after a short illness on December 18, 2017.

Inquiries to

Stacey's
Family Funeral Directors
30 Greenheath Road
Hednesford, WS12 4AR
01543 422524

PRATT

Majorie

Sadly passed away on Monday, December 11, 2017, aged 90 years.

The Funeral Service will take place at St. Michaels Church, Brereton on Thursday January 4, at 2.30pm.

All welcome.

Any donations will be passed on to Altzheimer UK.

TALBOT

Jean

Of Hednesford.

Passed away in hospital on December 18, 2017 aged 73 years.

Reunited with Husband Derek also a loving Mom, Nan, Nanny T, Sister, Aunty, Mother-in-law and Friend.

Service will be held at St Peter's Church, Hednesford on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 2pm, followed by Committal at Stafford Crematorium.

Family flowers only donations to Cancer Research UK c/o Funeral Directors.

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In Memoriam

MEAKIN

Thomas

Tom

4 years 30th December.

The time goes so quickly by, but thoughts of you will never die.

Wife Maureen, and Family.

Son

MILLINGTON

Stephen

Seven years.

January 7.

They say there is a reason, they say that time will heal but neither time or reason will change the way we feel. We love and miss you, what more is there to say, except we wish with all our hearts that you were here today.

Love forever.

Mom and Dad.

XXX

O'TOOLE

Sean

Died January 4, 2014, aged 45.

Forever in our memory Sean as you sleep in Heavenly peace in God's beautiful garden.

Very sadly misssed.

Rita, Keith and Ian.

O'TOOLE

Sean

January 4, 2014.

Son, thinking of you is easy, we do it every day but missing you is heartache that never goes away.

Love you forever.

Mom and Dad.

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Rider in support plea as he pursues dream

A CYCLIST from the Black Country is aiming to get to the top of his sport – and is calling on support from the area to help him.

Former Wolverhampton Wheelers rider Adam Lewis moved to Belgium four years ago to pursue his riding dream and has been signed up for team T Palm Pole Continental Waloon, which is in the third division of cycling. It means he will be competing in professional races in France, Belgium and Luxembourg from February, but he must pay for himself.

The 22-year-old from Willenhall says he needs around £5,000 to cover the first eight months of the season, paying for rent, food and coaching and has set up an online funding page.

Lewis said: "I will be racing throughout Europe in some of the most prestigious pro races in France, Belgium, Luxembourg to name just a few. Unfortunately, due to being a third division team they are not required to pay a salary which means my budget is extremely tight."

Visit www.gofundme.com/support-adams-pro-cycling-dream

Premier debut is a Goldson gift

FORMER team-mate Andre Gray led the tributes after Connor Goldson made an emotional Premier League debut for Brighton & Hove Albion.

Wolverhampton-born Goldson was named man of the match in the December 23 clash, after shutting out Gray's Watford on his top-flight bow – 10 months after being withdrawn from action to have heart surgery.

And though Goldson's performance condemned Watford to a fourth straight defeat, Gray could not hide his delight on social media.

Posting a picture of the duo contesting for possession on Twitter, Gray wrote: "From Sunday League Deansfield young boys to the Premier League, against all odds, we did what no-one could dreamed of... not even us I don't think!! Connor Goldson, I'm proud of you beyond belief, you've come through more than I can imagine and now we here! Man of the match on debut speaks for itself. Love you bro." The duo represented Wolverhampton Schools as youngsters before getting their break at Shrewsbury Town.

Although Gray would have to leave for non-league Hinckley, before rising through the ranks with Luton, Brentford, Burnley and now Watford; Goldson established himself in Shropshire.

He helped guide Town to promotion from League Two – and was named in the League Two team of the year – before linking up with Brighton, who were promoted last season under Chris Hughton, although Goldson missed the end of the campaign after a routine heart screening revealed a suspected defect.

After making his debut, Seagulls boss Hughton said: "It's a happy changing room for Connor, because he's a very popular player. We all know what he went through. You have to wait for your chance and I thought he was very good."

Andre Gray and Connor Goldson during the match

Match referee Bill Turley gives the red card to age

The cameras are rolling as the match officials are filmed

No signs of flagging from the men in black

THERE is no substitute for experience, so the old adage goes. And that was certainly the case when the officials trotted out for a recent clash in the Wolverhampton Sunday League.

The combined age of the men in black who took charge of the top-flight showdown between Penn Tandoori Sundats and AFC Jacks totalled 219 years.

Man in the middle Bill Turley clocked in at the age of 68 while his flag waving assistants, Terry Connolly and Harry Worrall, are 72 and 79 respectively.

And the occasion is set to gain national attention thanks to the presence of the Sky TV cameras.

Sky presenter Johnny Phillips, a columnist with The Chronicle's sister publication The Express & Star, was in attendance at Wolverhampton Casuals' Brinsford Lane having heard about the trio's appointment when he was guest speaker at a recent Wolverhampton Referees Association meeting.

Popular

The three wise men were brought to the screen over the festive period when they featured on the popular Soccer Saturday show hosted by Jeff Stelling.

And with the cameras rolling, the banter was soon flowing between the trio and Wolverhampton Referees Association chairman Phil Reade, the man responsible for appointing officials to Wolverhampton Sunday League games.

"Bill reckons the players say he looks like Gerry Francis, with his hair like that. I reckon it's more Peter Stringfellow!" quipped Phil.

"Bill is a larger than life character and Harry is really well known having been a referee for over 50 years, while Terry is probably the quieter one.

"All three of them are well respected around the local leagues and they enjoy a chat and a bit of banter with the players.

"It's great that they are getting some recognition for what they do and it's also good publicity for the league and the refs' association. We are the biggest association in the country and we have quite a number of refs who are aged 50 or above. This was a big

SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

"I have been refereeing for 20 years and I really enjoy it. It gets me out and it still gives me that buzz."

game but I don't look at ages when I make the appointments. I just look at whether they can handle the game. All three of them are experienced refs who know how to handle players. And they did a good job, just don't remind me about Bill's white boots!"

The white boots will see plenty of action this season with Bill likely to clock up a century of games during the course of the campaign.

And the Pendeford-based former publican has no plans to call time on his refereeing days anytime soon.

"Since I retired and I am free in the week, my phone never stops ringing," said Bill, who was amateur with Wolves and whose son, Billy, played professionally as a goalkeeper for Northampton Town, Oxford and Rushden & Diamonds.

"I referee in the Wolverhampton Sunday, the Midland Junior Premier on Saturdays, the Midland Junior Floodlit League and also school and college games.

"Over the course of the season I will do over 100 games. I love it. I'm not a young man but I am fit for my age. I'm an ex semi-pro and I know the game.

"I have been refereeing for 20 years and I really enjoy it. It gets me out and it still gives me that buzz. I love the banter because that's the sort of player I was. I talk to players, I'm a communicator.

"The one thing I don't like is when they get personal and backchat. If they do that, then I clamp down on that." As for the white boots....

"The story behind the white boots is that they were my son's," added Bill. "He used to give me his boots – I must have 15 pairs still to wear. There is nothing in the rules to say you can't wear white boots. I'm a colourful character. I'm a bouncy sort of bloke and if my boots are the only talking point then I have done a good job."

Footwear seemed to be a bit of theme on the morning of the game with Harry having splashed out on a new pair. And, like Bill, he will clock up fair few miles in them as he enters his 51st year as a referee.

"I still do the occasional senior game, but it's mainly youth games for me," says Harry, who lives in East Park.

"And I will carry on as long as the old knees keep up. I have a tablet each morning and put some muscle rub and knee supports on, and that does the trick.

"I felt great at the end of the game on Sunday and I still enjoy it. I lost my wife 16 years ago and football is what keeps me going. I love my football.

"But the game is not like it used to be. There is a lack of respect towards referees these days. You get the manager on the touchline having a go and that filters through to the players.

Boasts

"You have to have a word with them but I haven't got a card out for ages. I prefer to talk to players. Anyone can get a card out."

Terry, 72, is the least experienced of the trio having only decided to pick up a whistle 10 years ago.

But he still boasts plenty of footballing nous having run various youth teams from Bushbury youth club for over 40 years.

"I have been refereeing for about 10 years," he said.

"I used to run football and then stopped to raise a family. But I came back to the sport 10 years ago wanting to be a referee,

"Similar to Harry, I lost my wife and football is a big part of my life and keeps me active.

"I usually do three or four games a weekend and also referee five-a-side at Codsall School on a Monday.

"I do adults and juniors, Wolverhampton Sunday League, Beacon League and the Midland Junior League. I enjoy it so much, that's why I do some many games. As long as my legs keep carrying me about I will carry on."

Scholars on wrong end of a thriller

Chasetown 3 Frickley Athletic 4

CHASETOWN saw in the new year with a seven-goal thriller in the Evo-Stik Division One South. However, the Scholars were on the wrong end of the scoreline after play-off chasing Frickley came from behind to complete the double.

Scholars started well and went ahead after seven minutes. George Cater got on the end of a deep Will Whieldon cross and chipped to the back post for Matt Gardner to head home.

Frickley equalised on the stroke of half-time through Tyler Blake and then took the lead a minute after the restart when Jacob Hazel struck.

Chasetown responded and Whieldon back-heeled into the path of Langston who drilled home.

Frickley regained the lead after Chasetown defender Chris Baker was short with a header back to Curtis Pond and Blake nipped in to poke the ball home.

Scholars drew level again in the 75th minute with another drive from Langston. But an end-to-end game saw the away side grab the points inside the final three minutes as Hazel stole in to net his second of the game.

Gresley 0 Chasetown 4

CHASETOWN had ended the year with a comfortable away victory at Gresley.

Chasetown started brightly and had two early penalty appeals down before taking the lead in the 14th minute. Will Whieldon found space and slipped the ball to an unmarked George Cater, who found the net from six yards.

The Scholars doubled their lead in the 35th minute. Jack Langston fired goalwards from long range, Callum Hawkins could only parry and Cater tapped home.

A third goal wasn't far away and Whieldon whipped in a cross that Matt Gardner rose well to bury a header. Cater completed his hat-trick when he latched on to an exquisite Oli Hayward through-ball.

Romulus 2 Chasetown 1

EX-SCHOLAR Malachi Farquharson nicked all three points for Romulus on Boxing Day.

Chasetown drew first blood just before half-time when Will Wheldon curled a peach of a free-kick past Matt Sargeant.

Romulus levelled within minutes as Jordan Francis stole into the penalty area to fire beyond Curtis Pond and Farquharson netted the winner from a late corner.

Scholars entertain Alvechurch on Saturday, kick off 3pm.

Death of boxing referee aged 76

A TOP boxing referee, who hailed from the Black Country, has died aged 76.

Paul Thomas was born in Brierley Hill, but had moved to Derby.

He kept order in almost 300 world title fights and, as a judge, officiated thousands of fights in the West Midlands.

Back-to-back away wins recorded

Lancaster City 0 Hednesford Town 1

HEDNESFORD Town recorded back-to-back away Evo-Stik Premier victories to end 2017 on a high. A second-half header from Sam Oji defeated Lancaster City on Saturday.

The Pitmen started the game on the front foot and almost found a way through in the fourth minute when James Fitzgibbon played in Mason Walsh, but the winger was unable to bring the ball under control.

In the 15th minute, a flick-on from Joey Butlin found Fitzgibbon and the midfielder saw his low shot at the near post turned away by Chris Cheetham in the Lancaster goal.

Hednesford goalkeeper James Wren had little to do in the opening exchanges although he did have to quickly race from his line in the 17th minute to deny Craig Carney.

Five minutes later, the best chance of the half arrived for the home side when a corner picked out an unmarked Glenn Steel, whose free header was cleared off the line by Callam Mendez-Jones.

In the 34th minute, Matt Curley drove forward and played in Fitzgibbon whose cross picked out Curley, but his low effort was blocked before Walsh watched as his effort was also cleared.

Two minutes later, a 25-yard effort from Butlin saw Cheetham dive low to his left to push the effort away.

Four minutes into the second half, Wren was forced into a low smart save before the Pitmen came closest to opening the scoring in the 55th minute. Walsh turned one way and another before firing in a low effort that struck the inside of the post and into the grateful arms of Cheetham.

Deflected

Hednesford went close again in the 63rd minute when Walsh was fouled 25 yards out and James Lawrie curled an effort just wide of the upright.

The Pitmen continued to press and Curley saw an effort deflected behind before Oji watched on as his headed effort from a corner was cleared off the line in the 68th minute. Five minutes later, Hednesford would take the lead when James Lawrie played a free-kick into the box, Butlin flicked on and Oji scored with a diving header at the far post.

Pitmen's first away victory of the festive period had come at Dales Lane on Boxing Day as Rob Smith's side got the better of neighbours Rushall Olympic.

Charlie Gatter's second half goal was enough to earn victory in an entertaining derby.

Rushall took the lead 19 minutes in when Danny Waldron got in behind Hednesford's defence before pulling back perfectly for Richard Brodie to fire first time into the bottom corner from 15 yards out.

The Pitmen equalised on 31 minutes through a Mason Walsh effort. The winner came four minutes after the break when the ball fell to Gatter following a goalmouth scramble and the big centre back tapped home into an empty net.

Rushall could have equalised on 88 minutes but Zak Lily was denied by Wren.

PITMEN CLAIM DERBY DOUBLE

Hednesford Town 2 Stafford Rangers 1

HEDNESFORD TOWN recorded a league double over county rivals Stafford Rangers for the first time in six years.

In doing so, the Pitmen moved to within four points of the play-offs following this 2-1 New Year's Day victory, watched by a crowd of 892.

Although Hednesford forced an early corner, it was actually the visitors who showed the more attacking intent in the opening exchanges with Pitmen defender Sam Oji making a great last-ditch tackle to deny Rangers' Osebi Abadaki in the eighth minute.

Four corners over the course of the next 10 minutes followed for Stafford, but the Pitmen were able to deal with all of them.

Planted

The breakthrough would come for the home side just before the half-hour mark when Mason Walsh drove past Sam Griffiths and his pinpoint cross found Joey Butlin and he planted a header back across goal and into the corner of the net.

Hednesford goalkeeper James Wren was forced into action in the 32nd minute to deny Abadaki before Butlin saw an effort at the other end turned behind for a corner five minutes later.

Right on the stroke of half-time, Hednesford doubled their lead in somewhat strange circumstances. A corner picked out defender Charlie Gatter, whose high looping effort deceived Adam Whitehouse in the Rangers goal and found the back of the net via the underside of the crossbar.

Joey Butlin celebrates after netting the opener for Hednesford in Monday's derby

Six minutes into the second half, a rasping effort from Massiah McDonald was kept out by Wren as Rangers looked for a way back into the game.

The visitors would reduce the arrears in the 74th minute when Abadaki got to the byline and his low cross was slid into his own net by Callam Mendez-Jones.

Right on the stroke of the 90th minute, Hednesford almost put the game beyond doubt as James Lawrie played a short free-kick to Danny Glover, but his low effort hit the post and went wide.

The Pitmen visit Nantwich Town on Saturday and entertain Lichfield City in a rearranged Staffs Senior Cup tie next Tuesday, kick off 7.45pm.

Applause in honour of keeper Derek

A MINUTE'S applause was held before Stourbridge FC's fixture against Rushall Olympic on New Year's Day, in memory of their former goalkeeper Derek Dudley who also played for Villa and Albion.

Mr Dudley, of Rugeley, who spent four years at Aston Villa in the 1980s and also played for the Baggies, died on New Year's Eve.

Derek Dudley

His former Baggies teammate Daryl Burgess said: "On this night of joy, please raise a glass for my ex team mate Derek Dudley who sadly passed away. Life is short folks, enjoy it."

Mr Dudley, who was 47-years-old, also used to play for Halesowen Town and Chasetown.

Stourbridge FC said in an official statement: "We held a minute's applause before kick-off in memory of our former goalkeeper Derek Dudley who sadly passed away."

Hayes make point to end losing run

Chelmsley Town 2 Heath Hayes 2

HEATH Hayes brought their losing run to an end in the Midland Football League Division One with a hard-earned point at Chelmsley Town on Saturday.

The first half petered out into a stalemate with neither keeper called into any serious saves.

The second half was only five minutes old when Chelmsley took the lead, an 18 yard shot from Williams leaving keeper Mark Wiggins flat-footed. Hayes pushed forward and found an equaliser when under pressure Chelmsley's Sawyer put past his own keeper

Within a minute Hayes took the lead when James McGrady found the bottom corner but again Chelmsley levelled with Sawyer finding the net at the right end.

● Brad Rolston scored twice but leaders Leicester Road were too good for Heath Hayes on Boxing Day, returning from the Coppice Colliery Ground with a 4-2 win.

On Saturday, Hayes entertain Cadbury, kick off 3pm.

★★★

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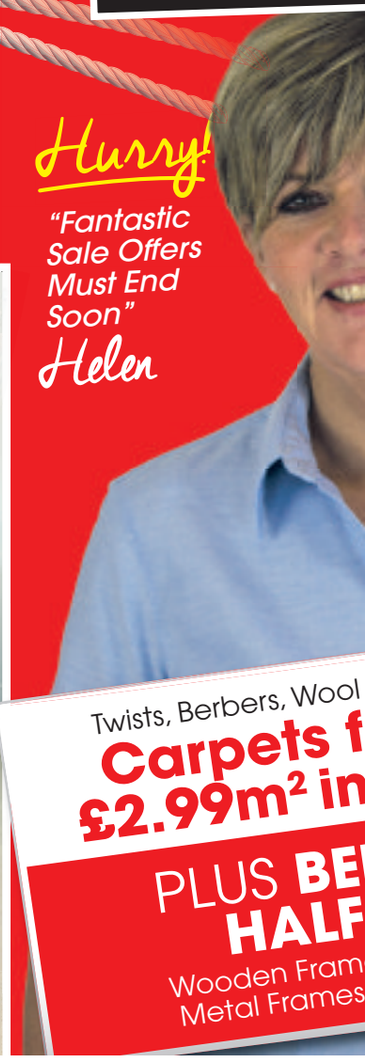

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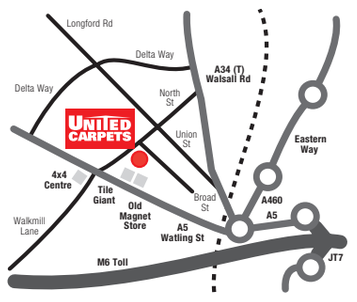

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